

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 14, 2013

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Eight are jailed for £98,000 burglaries

EIGHT men, including two from Halesowen, have been jailed for a total of almost 30 years for a spate of break-ins, which a judge described as "career criminality played for high stakes".

The men, six of whom are from Kidderminster and two from Halesowen, were sentenced after pleading guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary, an offence which included 24 burglaries between them.

They stole £98,210 in stock or money from businesses such as garden centres and golf clubs across the Midlands, Hereford Crown Court heard. They caused £43,000 damage to the firms, which were hit between June and October 2011. Because their method included cutting phone wires and alarm cables, they also caused about £22,500 damage.

Prosecutor Malcolm Morse said the gang would use only three or four members at a time.

CCTV showed the gang wearing balaclavas over their faces and using walkie-talkies instead of mobiles that could be tracked. Mr Morse said they targeted rural locations in the early hours, including businesses in Dudley.

• Greed – page 3



Christina Edkins

by Lisa Wright

PRIME Minister David Cameron has pledged to look at knife laws following the murder of Halesowen schoolgirl Christina Edkins.

Responding to a question from Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris in the House of Commons this week he spoke of his shock and said he would review rules on how those carrying knives should be dealt with. The news comes as more than £2,000 has been collected at supermarkets and shops across the Black Country for Christina's family. The 16-year-old, from Ladyswood, was stabbed on a bus on her way to Leasowes High School. Police are to charge 22-year-old Phillip Simelane, of Walsall, with murder.

Christina was travelling on the number nine bus in Hagley Road, Birmingham when the attack happened last Thursday morning. She died from a single stab wound to the chest.

Mr Morris has also held a meeting with National Express managing director Peter Coates over ideas to further improve security on the region's buses.

They included increasing the number of CCTVs on buses, introducing SmartWater technology to easily track people who were on buses and stepping up patrols of undercover officers in problem areas.

He added: "Tragically, nothing can bring Christina back, but we owe it to her memory to do everything we can to stop this happening again by taking further action to tackle the issue of people carrying knives in public."

Heartbreak

Paying tribute to the teenager, Christina's family have spoken of their heartbreak at the loss of their "beautiful princess".

Her parents Kathleen and Jason, brother Ryan and half-sister Joanne said they were "heartbroken and devastated".

"Our family and friends knew her as an amazing individual with her whole life ahead of her which was tragically taken away. Our lives will never be the same again," they said in a statement. "Our daughter was the most beautiful, intelligent and bright young lady."

The family added they were overwhelmed by the kindness shown by friends and neighbours as well as people who had never met her. Christina would be very proud of each and every one of you; it is heartbreaking she is not here to see it," they said. The community has rallied round with supermarket Asda announcing £2,175 had so far been taken in collections.

Multi-million pound plans get go-ahead

MULTI-million pound plans to revamp Dudley's Castle Hill creating a tourism destination have won the unanimous support of councillors.

A new visitors' entrance for Dudley Zoo and Castle, a 600-space car park and information hub are part of the scheme.

Members of Dudley Council's planning committee voted on Monday night to approve the application which is set to boost the zoo, museum and Dudley Canal Trust.

Land between Dudley Zoo and Castle, the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Canal Trust will be redeveloped to create a new 600-space visitor car park and a recreational route linking the attractions as part of the scheme.

Other developments will include a staffed visitor hub providing people with information on the three sites. There will also be a new entrance for the zoo.

The development control committee gave unanimous approval to the £10.1 million scheme.

The project has been backed by around £4.5m of European funding.

Dudley Council wants the zoo, museum and canal trust to be better linked to propel the number of people visiting the town number one million a year.

Councillor Colin Wilson said: "My thoughts can be summed up in a single sentence. "This fits the bill."

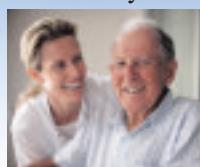
Thumbs up for murals

PLANS to create two murals honouring two of Halesowen's most famous sons have been rubber-stamped.

They will be designed by Dudley borough artist Steve Field and pay tribute to poet William Shenstone who designed The Leasowes park, and novelist Francis Brett Young. Dudley Council plans to unveil them at Cornbow Hall next year – a significant anniversary year for both of the writers.

The proposals have now been approved by cabinet member for culture Councilor Tracy Wood.

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Penguin Bongo being reared by hand



A PENGUIN chick which was abandoned by its mother during a rain-storm is being cared for by keepers at Dudley Zoo.

Little Bongo was taken in and hand-reared by the team after being found outside the nesting boxes.

Four months on, the youngster is being hand fed sprats and growing stronger each day.

Keepers are returning the chick to the Penguin Bay enclosure for a few

hours a day, so it can get used to fellow members of the 70-strong colony before moving back permanently.

Team leader for the birds section Kellie Piper said: "We are keeping Bongo in a wooden pen on the edge of the pool at the moment, so it gets used to the surroundings and the other penguins. We haven't been able to see the chick yet, it's a bit too early, but Bongo is coming on well." Dudley Zoo's success in the international breeding pro-

gramme for Humboldt penguins spans more than two decades.

When it started the programme in 1991, there were just five hand reared chicks.

Now the zoo is home to the UK's largest parent-reared colony of Humboldt penguins. The conservation programme has also been recognised by BIAZA (British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums) and gained an award for sustained breeding.

1,800 on petition over taxi colours

MORE than 1,800 taxi drivers and customers in Dudley have signed a petition calling on the council to rethink its policy for only allowing white cars to be used for private hire.

Dudley Council brought in regulations for the single colour scheme to improve safety for residents.

But taxi drivers claim the rules cost them hundreds of pounds extra in higher prices from car manufacturers. They say they have resorted to expensive resprays of existing vehicles instead to comply with the rules.

Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association says the growing popularity of white cars, driven by their use in music videos and by celebrities, has pushed the price of vehicles through the roof.

The colour scheme was introduced in 2006 to make licensed vehicles easily identifiable. However, more than 1,800 people have signed a petition to be presented to the council at a meeting this week asking for a change in policy. The association wants at least another colour option, such as silver or grey, to be added to the rules to free up drivers to purchase cheaper cars.

Death crash insomniac is jailed and given ban

Retirement home hits right note



Accordian player Ken Cooper, aged 91, with choirmaster for the Anchor project Carl Marthin at St Clements Court, Halesowen, where residents were recording a song for charity

SINGERS and musicians from a Halesowen retirement home were in fine voice when they recorded a charity single.

The song called See Yourself, which will be on sale in the summer, will raise money for Contact the Elderly, which organises monthly Sunday tea parties for older people living alone.

Thanks to music, I feel like a 70-year-old, not a 91 year old."

Mr Cooper, who has lived at St Clements Court in Hill Street for three years also plays the organ at two church day centres in Halesowen. He said: "Rehearsing for this song with lots of other older people living in other Anchor properties has been such an amazing experience."

Real ale time for May Day

A REAL ale festival will take place as part of a Smethwick park's May Day Festival.

The event at Lightwoods Park on May 6 will offer a range of tipplers. Meanwhile Kinver brewery has offered to brew a special ale specially for the day.

Lightwoods Park Friends Group chairman Richard Marshall said: "We have had fantastic support for the idea from Envilles Brewery near Stourbridge who are offering to supply some of their range of speciality brews, deliver and tap the barrels, and collect from other breweries."

Dog donations

DOG coats, bowls, blankets and other equipment has been collected by students at Dudley College and donated to Birmingham Dogs Home.

As part of their course students looked at how convictions of cruelty and neglect to animals are rising, prompting them to try to help unwanted dogs.

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Warning on child benefits

PARENTS being forced to pay back their child benefit income under new tax rules have been urged to seek advice.

The new rules, through which the government hopes to save £1.5bn a year, came into effect on January 7 as part of a number of sweeping HM Revenue and Customs tax measures.

The benefit changes will see more than one million parents having to declare their Child Benefit income by April 5, while others who simply fail to register online by October 5 could face fines.

Tax expert Anita Stewart, a partner at Bewdley-based DHJH Chartered Accountants, said parents should 'think smart' to reduce their tax bill by looking at the various options available.

She said: "For the first time ever Child Benefit is being means tested and it will pile more pressure onto household incomes."

"In a nutshell, child benefit income has been slashed within families where one parent has an income of £50,000 with those earning over £60,000 faced with the reality of it being entirely withdrawn. But there is confusion as payments have not been altered automatically."

Dodd does 5-hour show

ABOUT 1,000 people crammed into Dudley Town Hall for an evening of stand-up comedy with Kee Dodd.

The 85-year-old, known for continuing his performances into the early hours, kicked off around 7pm on Saturday and wrapped up just after midnight.

David Eden, the venue's front of house events manager, said: "He was very well received, and he was happy to sign souvenirs and programmes afterwards. It was a really good night, very entertaining and very funny."

More flights

ONE of the leading airlines at Birmingham Airport is increasing the frequency of its Barcelona service from the West Midlands gateway from four times a week to every day.

The Barcelona route has been a popular choice with passengers since its introduction and the frequency will increase from May 1.

Food contract boost will create 500 jobs

FIVE hundred jobs will be created in the Black Country by 2 Sisters Food group, bosses have announced.

The firm, which has plants in West Bromwich, Smethwick and Wolverhampton, has been boosted by a surge in orders.

They include securing an improved multi-million pound contract last year to supply poultry to Sainsbury's.

The group is moving from a five to seven day working week as part of its plans to increase output.

The poultry division plants in Bevan Way, Smethwick; Dial Lane, West Bromwich and Lincoln Street, Wolverhampton, employ

1,200. Last December around 800 of them took part in a one-day strike called by union Unite over a new pay deal as part of the move to seven day working.

Group spokesman Andrew Hanson said that after a deal was reached the changes were in the process of being implemented.

He said there was no exact time scale yet for when the group would begin recruiting but added, we expect to start during this year. Mr Hanson said the move to the five in seven day working system would create 500 jobs, mainly in the West Midlands.

The group is ramping up poultry meat production capacity and is to extend an

existing factory in Newport, South Wales, and alter the layout of two chicken processing plants in Norfolk and Devon.

It has appointed Clegg Food Projects to work on the schemes, which are to be completed in the summer.

Sainsbury's is sourcing all its chicken from 2 Sisters and Moy Park as part of its "2020 Strategy" – a move to sell more British food by 2020.

It previously had three suppliers, which included 2 Sisters. The increased supply to Sainsbury's begins in the second quarter of this year. The group was started in West Bromwich in 1993 by chief executive Ranjit

Singh Boparan. It started out specialising in supplying poultry, but now also offers fish, chilled foods, bakery and frozen products to the retail, food service and food manufacturing sectors.

It is split into six divisions and has 35 manufacturing sites in the UK and Ireland, six in Holland and one in Poland and employs more than 18,000 people in total.

The UK poultry division supplies to a range of retailers and food service businesses and food manufacturers. It predominantly produces private label products however, there are some brands including Buxted and Devonshire Red.

NEWS

in brief

Call for rethink on canteen cuts

AN MP is calling on health bosses to rethink their controversial plans to reduce the opening hours of the canteen at Russells Hall Hospital.

Ian Austin has written to chief executive Paula Clark about his concerns after it was announced the canteen would shut at weekends from next month. The moves form part of cost-cutting proposals aimed at saving £15 million by 2015. Under the plans, the canteen would open between 7am and 2.30pm Monday to Friday.

Mayor officiates at club reopening

CRICKET supporters celebrated the official opening of their club pavilion by the Mayor of Dudley after a £42,000 revamp.

Stourbridge Cricket Club hosted the ceremony to mark the end of a five-year campaign to refurbish the clubhouse.

The Mayor, Councillor Melvyn Mottram officially opened the building.

The club is based at the War Memorial Athletic Ground, in Amblecote High Street, along with Stourbridge FC.

Wetherspoon's stops pubs sale

JD Wetherspoon has no plans to sell any more of its pub sites to supermarket chains. It had come under fire after selling sites in Croydon and Wandsworth last year.

In both cases, supermarket chains approached the pub group to buy the buildings. A spokesman said it understood the concerns of Camra and had no further plans to sell pubs to supermarkets.

Airshow tickets are now on sale

TICKETS for this year's RAF Cosford Air Show are now available to buy.

As well as the RAF museum at Cosford people will be able to pick up a ticket from tourist information centres in Stafford and Shrewsbury.

The show will be on June 9. Tickets are £20. Visit www.cosfordairshow.co.uk

Firm is expanding

A CRADLEY Heath drop forging specialist is taking on five extra staff.

Premier Stampings has invested more than £1 million in the new 400 sq metres heat treatment plant in Station Street.

Gang of burglars 'caught out by their own greed'

A GANG of burglars who stole thousands from businesses was caught after getting "greedy and over-confident", police said.

The eight men from Halesowen, Kidderminster and Stourport were jailed for a four-month spree of burglaries, targeting mostly rural golf clubs and garden centres and stealing almost £100,000 in stock or cash.

Prosecutor Malcolm Morse told Hereford Crown Court how the gang targeted its victims – businesses in rural areas in the early hours of the morning. He said only a few gang members would be used each time and they would first cut phone wires and disable the alarms.

They would wait while the business owner or security guard came out to reset the alarm manually, unaware they were hiding nearby.

They would then break in, and although the alarms sounded, the alarm company was either not aware or simply thought the alarm was faulty. Mr Morse said: "The main target seems to be safes and they used various methods to open them.

Cameras

"They would often interfere with CCTV either ripping it from the wall or turning the cameras around." The CCTV which was recovered, however, showed how the gang would cover their faces with balaclavas and use walkie-talkies so they did not have to use mobile phones which would be traced.

After the sentencing on Monday, Detective Constable Phillipa Metcalfe of West Mercia Police said: "While it was a sophisticated operation, the defendants became greedy and overconfident, which ultimately led to their downfall."

"This was a long and complicated operation, involving a great deal of liaison between West Mercia Police and different forces, and we hope the result will act as deterrent to other offenders, who wrongly think that commercial burglaries are victimless crimes, and that they are treated less seriously than domestic burglaries."

Terence Hodgkins, aged 35, of Whittall Drive East in Kidderminster, accepted he was involved in 13 of the burglaries but claimed he had no role in organising them.

Andrew Perry, also known as Andrew Sadler, 26, of Dunlin Drive, Kidderminster, admitted 11 burglaries; Jamie Worrall, 26, of Masons Close in Halesowen, admitted nine burglaries and Timothy Smith, 22, of Truro Drive in Kidderminster, admitted eight.

Mark Wilson, 42, who is serving a prison sentence, admitted five burglaries; Jordan Taylor, 22, of Beecher Road, Halesowen, admitted four; Neil Davis, 42, of Bewdley Road, Stourport, admitted three burglaries and Michael Cope, aged 25, of Woodbury Road, Kidderminster, admitted one.

Between June and October 2011, the gang hit businesses in the Midlands, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Lancashire.

They included Leading Labels in Evesham, from which clothing and cash worth more than £17,000 was stolen, Little Heath Garden Centre in Bromsgrove, from which fur-



Terence Hodgkins, 35



Andrew Perry/Andrew Sadler



Timothy Smith



Mark Wilson, aged 42



Jordan Taylor, of Halesowen



Jamie Worrall, of Halesowen



Neil Davis, of Stourport



Michael Cope

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THE summer of 2013? It was a week last Tuesday.



NO SURPRISES in the Europe-wide report on the dangers of eating processed meat. As a general rule of nature, the better something tastes, the worse it is for you. And can you think of anything in the natural world that tastes quite as good as a bacon sarnie with brown sauce? It is the food of the gods. The only snag is the more you eat, the sooner you will be with the gods.



SCIENTISTS in East Anglia say half of Britain's 1.5 million deer should be culled to prevent "devastation" of the countryside. Any driver whose car has been written off by a jaywalking muntjac will agree with that. But there is no need for wholesale slaughter. Britain has too many deer because we have exterminated all their natural predators. If the shy, beautiful Eurasian lynx were reintroduced to remote areas of our land, the deer problem would be sorted before you could say Bambi.



WE went along to **Wild Night Out**, naturalist Chris Packham's one-man show which is currently touring Middle England. The affable Spring-watch presenter and wildlife photographer is a great raconteur and he presents some breathtaking snaps of everything from pondskaters to tigers. But what of his central ecological argument, that we can only have a thriving, animal-rich countryside if we Brits are prepared to pay more for food, thus encouraging less intensive farming? Try telling a struggling housing-estate mum that there could be barn owls and goshawks on every English farm - if only she would pay an extra £20 a week for food. We are a divided nation. A green, middle-class argument that brings applause in Lichfield or Leamington Spa goes down like a lead balloon in Bilston.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Under-threat centre is excellent, says Ofsted

EDUCATION watchdogs have praised an under-threat children's centre in Dudley as being excellent.

Woodside Children's Centre, Highgate Road has received top marks from Ofsted inspectors. The score comes as the centre, along with 19 other centres in the borough, face an unknown future following a big cut in Government funding.

Closures defended

A MAJOR energy supplier has defended its decision to close offices in Dudley, putting jobs at risk, following the announcement its profits increased 25 per cent last year.

Dudley Council's cabinet member for education, Councillor Tim Crumpton, said the Ofsted report proved how important the centres were to the communities they served.

The centre's management was recently taken over by Dudley Council, which will be taking over all the other centres from April 1.

The centre is used by 92 per cent of families in its patch, according to the Ofsted report.

It said: "The centre provides outstanding value for money and is making a substantial difference to the lives of children and their families living in the area."

Sarah Tuck, manager at Woodside, said: "I feel very proud that Woodside Children's Centre has received an outstanding Ofsted report."



Under-threat facility has received top marks following an Ofsted inspection

Snake bites intrepid Mike

MAYORAL attendant Mike Crannage who was on a mammoth trek through the Costa Rican jungle hit a major setback when he was bitten by a venomous snake leaving him needing emergency treatment.

The 53-year-old, from Netherton, started to feel ill but still managed the three-hour trek to the next meeting point.

"I'm not sure how long it took but by the time I reached the meeting point I was feeling a bit rough and in the end I could only manage eight or nine paces before I had to stop and rest. I must have looked a right a mess. As soon as I got there I was asked

what's wrong and all I could say was 'snake,'" said Mr Crannage, who works for Dudley Council.

He was then rushed to a jungle clinic. "By the time we got there my blood pressure was through the roof, I had a heart rate of 180 and was suffering arterial fibrillation.

"I was put on oxygen and attached to heart and blood pressure monitors," he said. At the clinic, he was given injections and pills which returned his blood pressure to normal." After six hours he was released. Despite the setback, Mr Crannage completed the rest of the 150-mile trek.

£500,000 scheme to spruce up homes

A £500,000 scheme to spruce up homes in a Dudley street is getting under way as part of a project that will also see empty properties brought back into use.

Council officials have linked with Jephson Homes Housing Association for the project to revamp homes in Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall.

New windows and roof repairs are among the works planned for properties along the busy route between Dudley and Brierley Hill.

Bosses said the focus of the project is the availability of quality affordable housing in Dudley for people in need of places to live.

In total, 17 large houses, which had been converted into 47 bedsits and small flats in the early 1980s, are being redesigned.

These will be modernised to meet needs of people in the area and turned into homes ranging from single bedroom flats to five-bedroom houses.

Dreams buy bid

THE founder of the Dreams bed stores group hopes to buy some of the remaining sites that have not been sold already.

Mike Clare is negotiating with the administrators of the remaining 90 stores to buy more than 50. Stores in Dudley and Oldbury continue to trade.

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Cook's will shed 2,500 jobs in cuts

THOMAS Cook has announced plans to axe 2,500 UK jobs – hundreds of them at former Co-op Travel stores in the Midlands.

There will be 195 travel agents closed down on the high street with the loss of 1,600 posts, while around 930 people will lose their jobs at offices nationwide.

The move is part of Thomas Cook's efforts to turn around the business after a string of poor results, including "unacceptable losses" of £590 million in November last year.

The company says it also reflects the fact that more customers are using the internet and call centres to book their holidays, rather than high street travel agents. The company employs 15,500 people and will still have 874 high street branches.

No details have yet been revealed about which stores will close, but shopworkers union Udsaw said it affected 119 former Co-op Travel and Midlands Co-op Travel stores, merged into Thomas Cook in 2010.

Another 76 Thomas Cook stores are also set for closure, but it is not known if branches in the Black Country are affected.

Custody support

WEST Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones has developed a scheme for vulnerable adults held in custody. About 40 people have been trained to be available to assist police officers.

Push for memorial to the revolutionary Simon Snorkel

IT was a revolutionary model of mechanical design built only in Dudley and shipped around the globe to be used for a whole range of functions, including firefighting and industrial development.

The Simon Snorkel is seen on fire engines, rescue vehicles and aeroplane ice removers – one even stands monument-like in the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster in Ukraine. Now, more than 20 years after the last one was rolled out of the factory in Dudley, the men and women who worked to build them want to install a monument to commemorate the machine's birthplace. The group of ex-employees of the now-defunct Simon Engineering has come up with two designs for a statue and is to ask Dudley Council for up to £10,000 funding for the plan.

Thomas Mullen, chairman of the Simon Engineering Retirement Association, said the company's impact around the globe and benefit to the local economy deserved recognition.

The Stockport-based company built the hydraulic platforms at a factory in Queen's Cross, Dudley, from 1953 until 1975, when it moved to a new base opposite Russells Hall Hospital in Pensnett Road, Holly Hall.

Worldwide

More than 13,000 of the machines were built at the two sites and sold to more than 150 countries worldwide. At its height, the company employed 375 people in the town, including the current Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Mervyn Mottram.

The machine was thought up by company director Sir Patrick Hamilton who saw a similar mechanical device used for picking apples in Canada.

Mr Mullen, aged 79, of Hurst Hill, Coseley, worked for the company in Dudley as a floor operator from 1975 until it closed down operations in 1995.

He said: "Simon Engineering put Dudley on the map. We really believe something should be placed to remind people of where the company was based and the invention built. I think it is important the young people of Dudley know the town's history, too often old industries get forgotten in the past despite their huge impact."



Roland Smith, front holding the designs, and fellow members of the association



Two of the memorial designs from Steve Field, Dudley borough's design artist

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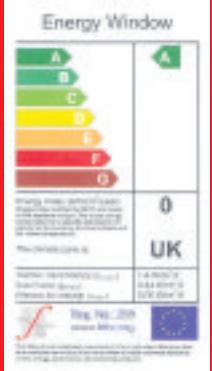
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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

HAVING spotted Aylie burying his much-loved budgie in the garden, Aynuk inquired about the cause of the death.

"Baerd flu," replied Aylie.

"Baerd flu? How did he get that?" asked Aynuk, surprised. "I dunno, I just opened the doover an' he fu under the buzz."

□□□□□□□□

TRUTH be told, I think my copy must have got lost in the post. But I am reliably informed by avid readers of the clinicians' journal BMC Medical that three pork sausages a day is a passport to an early grave.

Or more than two bacon rashers. As for pork scratchings or faggots and paes, even the mention of their very name is enough to give the good medics a fatal coronary. Which would presumably result in a premature death for them too.

According to an international investigation, it seems that processed meat, or maet as we call it in the Black Country, has joined the already massive list of things we are not supposed to eat.

Apparently, if we eat more than one ounce of processed meat a day, we will almost certainly die from an overdose of iron. That is if the cholesterol does not get to us first. Or the nitrates, which are added to improve the flavour, and presumably mask the taste from the liberal helpings of horse meat.

Of course, as many a Black Countryman will testify, there are certain pubs in the region where irksome questions about the nutritional content of processed meat products will lead to premature death, far more instantaneous than anything associated with the risks of a few too many carcinogens. Even so it makes for depressing reading.

Speaking as one who, on recent government advice, has cut down alcohol consumption to just five nights a week, it was bad enough hearing that even fizzy pop is now viewed as a potential killer. Apparently it should be taxed at 20 per cent, presumably in a bid to cut down on the menace of binge lemonade drinkers who wreak havoc in our city centres every Saturday night.

If the experts are to be believed, a diet of muesli, vegetables and water is our only hope if we are to avoid imminent and painful death. And only then if we get our obligatory five-a-day.

I don't know about you, but that's a prospect which fills me with dread. Which is just as well. According to another survey, anxious pessimists live longer than the rest of the population.

□□□□□□□□

ON the subject of a vegetarian diet, it has just been revealed that several veggie lasagnes have been caught up in the horse meat scandal. Apparently they have been contaminated with unigourn.

A TEENAGE boy in the Black Country. Is he a monsoon?



One of Beryl's old photographs showing her doing her cabaret act



A publicity shot of Beryl



The interior of the Dudley Hippodrome where Beryl performed

Singer Beryl recalls great days at the Hippodrome

Former Dudley singer Beryl Bate talks to ANDREW TURTON about her memories of her career and joining the fight to save the Hippodrome

AN adoring hometown audience cheering her from the rafters as she took to the stage of Dudley Hippodrome still lives in the memory.

Now singing star Beryl Bate wants other up-and-coming performers to experience life on the stage at the old theatre which is under threat of demolition.

Mrs Bate, who starred in a successful stage show at the theatre in the 1950s, has joined the voices of other campaigners trying to reopen the Hippodrome for future generations.

The pensioner from Pensnett trod the same boards graced by legendary names in showbiz including Bob Hope, Laurel & Hardy and George Formby.

Wonderful

"It was truly wonderful to appear on stage at the Hippodrome as I was so proud. The troupe I performed with were amazed by the brilliant atmosphere," said Mrs Bate, who has two children Dale and Deena.

She was born and raised in Pensnett and as a teenager found, while performing in pubs and clubs, she could sing like 1950s American jazz singer Kay Starr.

An agent told her about an advert in the New Musical Express looking for singers who could impersonate stars of the day.

She attended the audition in the Windmill Rehearsal Rooms in Piccadilly, in London, in 1957.

"When we attended it was like the X Factor of today," she said.

"There were 100s of young people



Beryl Bate who performed as a tribute singer in the 1950s now, aged 73

from all parts of the country who had come along for it," she said.

The impresario, a Mr C. Buckingham, invited her to join and soon 'Beryl Bate as Kay Starr' appeared in programmes and on billboards.

She joined the touring show Disc Doubles in 1958.

Success soon followed for the show and it was picked up by leading theatre owner and promotion company Moss Empires.

This led to shows at increasingly more impressive theatres - including

a week-long run at the Dudley Hippodrome.

"It was wonderful going to Dudley with the other performers to be seen by friends and family who could come to see the show," she said.

"I felt so proud to think I was performing in my hometown and it was exciting to be at the Hippodrome.

"Dudley Hippodrome was art deco and it was like no other theatre we had been to before because it was modern and the dressing rooms were tremendous," she added.

Her husband John, who worked at Round Oak Steelworks, rallied friends and family to come and see the show during its run.

The King's Head pub in Pensnett, also booked two coaches for friends to come and see the show while it was at the Hippodrome.

She would sing three songs and also take part in a group performance to open the show.

Other stars which were impersonated included Nat King Cole, Elvis and Louis Armstrong.

To while away the hours between evening performances, the cast were given complimentary passes to go around Dudley Zoo and Castle.

Homesick

But after months on the road, Mrs Bate was growing increasingly homesick and longed for life back in Dudley. "I always had a comfortable home life and missed my family, friends and husband in our new house," she said.

She was eventually released from her contract - and was replaced by a singer impersonating 1950s Belfast-born songstress Ruby Murray.

"It was a wonderful experience and I can still smell the greasepaint but I made the decision to stop and it was the best decision I have ever made and I never regretted it," said Mrs Bate who still starred in cabaret shows afterwards.

"Even now I get people coming up to me saying about the show and saying 'you sung like Kay Starr' which is nice."

Mrs Bate, who carried on singing, is backing the campaign to save the theatre.

"It would be nice for the Dudley Hippodrome to open again so that others could perform in their hometown," she added.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A FACTORY worker from Coseley found himself at the centre of a full-scale drama after blinking at work. Three fire engines and an ambulance turned up to BUP Developments in Anchor Lane, Coseley, after Stephen Holmes got some grit in his eye. The accident had been misreported by an employee.

HUNDREDS of town hall staff and manual workers demonstrated outside Walsall council house in opposition to proposed wage cuts. Council chiefs had failed to agree over plans to curb spending and reduce the rates.

GRANDMOTHER Mabel Parkes had the mighty Coal Board at her mercy after finding out she was sitting on black gold. Mrs Parkes, whose husband Len was a former coalminer, entered into negotiations with the board after finding out there was 100,000 tons of quality coal under her Great Wyrley home.

1993...

A FORMER Wolverhampton family's ski holiday in Scotland was fraught with problems. Mrs Trudy Guy was knocked over by another skier, her seven-year-old son Andrew had to be stretchered off and 10-year-old Simon arrived at Inverness Hospital with a broken shin.

2003...

THE owner of a Wolverhampton shop with only one sink received his annual water bill for nearly £1,000. Nigel Teather, owner of Photo Mecca was billed £964.76 for 1993-94, despite having no hot running water. A spokesman for Severn Trent said water rates were based on rateable value not the amount used.

A WOLVERHAMPTON couple were left with a sinking feeling after a surveyor's report confirmed their house was sliding into the ground. Christopher and Patricia Sweet demanded to be moved from their home in Hamilton Gardens, Bushbury.

2003...

PEOPLE across Staffordshire and the Black Country saw red in a bid to raise cash and a smile for Comic Relief. Fundraisers took part in a range of weird and wacky events across the region, including a bouncathon in Sandwell and a sponsored cycle at Tipton Sports Academy.

PART-TIME soldiers from across the Black Country and Shropshire were set to play a key role in providing ammunition for the offensive against Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

HIDDEN spy cameras designed to catch thieves on film helped to reduce the number of repeat burglaries in the West Midlands by almost a third.

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LETTERS**Benefit of work is questionable**

DUDLEY council has imposed a one-way traffic system in Sedgley, involving long detours for eastbound drivers who would normally use Gospel End Street and Vicar Street, and causing great inconvenience for residents of several local roads, for up to six months.

The purpose is to take down a high retaining wall by the junction of Vicar Street, The Priory and Gospel End Street, and rebuild it a few feet back.

A major part of this is to provide a pavement next to the wall, allowing children to be walked to school safely on that side of the road, and as a benefit to pedestrians.

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NEWS

Lawyers are delving into claims on Russells Hall

RUSSELLS HALL HOSPITAL, Dudley is being investigated as part of 31 new claims from patients saying they were the victims of poor care at three hospitals.

Nine of the claims are against Russells Hall, one involves Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital, and 21 are new allegations against scandal-hit Stafford.

The cases are being handled by Leigh Day solicitors, which says the scale of the complaints is "truly shocking".

The firm, which represented 120 victims of the Stafford failures, has revealed a flood of claims following the publication of the report by Robert Francis QC into Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust. Seven out of 10 of the claims are from pensioners.

Across the country, 28 hospitals have claims of neglect against them involving 116 people. In one case the daughter of an elderly man says her father's time in hospital left her with post-traumatic stress disorder, usually associated with soldiers returning from war zones.

Leigh Day lawyer Emma Jones said: "The scale of the complaints is truly shocking. What is particularly worrying is the same issues keep coming up."

"These include people, mostly elderly, going without food or water, being left to sit in their own waste, and general lack of care and attention by those paid to care."

"We believe there are many more people who suffered at these Midlands hospitals."

Bosses from Russells Hall were unavailable for comment.

Speaking teams backed

ROTARIANS are backing two teams of students who are taking part in a contest to find the best public speakers in the country.

The Rotary Club of Stourbridge have agreed to sponsor the teams to take part in the Youth Speaks competition organised by Rotarians nationwide.

Getting high on society



High rollers – Steve Fletcher, Louise Griffin, Beth Henwood, Fleur Petford and Steve Homer from the Tab Operatic Society

AMATEUR performers will bring a touch of glamour to a Dudley stage with a popular musical later this month.

The Tab Operatic Society of Cradley Heath will stage High Society from March 19 to 23 at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

Based on the 1956 hit film, the fast-moving show includes a host of popular songs including Throwin' a Ball Tonight, You're Sensational and She's Got That Thing.

The story is set in 1948 and is centred around the wedding plans of wealthy socialite Tracy Lord who is about to marry her second husband, George Ketteridge. Tab Operatic

member Fleur Petford will be playing Tracy while Elaine Vine will be her mother Margaret.

Neil Greenway will be starring as her husband-to-be George while Louise Griffin and Stephen Homer will be journalists Liz and Mike who are sent to get the inside scoop on the wedding.

Director and choreographer Audrey Henwood said a cast of 50 had been rehearsing for the show since September. Performances start at 7.15pm. There is a Saturday matinee show at 2pm. For tickets call 07722 417962 or from the evening box office at the Civic Hall from March 11. Visit: www.taboperatic.com

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NEWS

A diamond couple



Gerald and Betty Sheaf celebrating 60 years of marriage

A DIAMOND couple who first met at a Dudley music venue have celebrated 60 years of happy marriage.

Gerald Sheaf was 21 when he first spotted his bride-to-be Betty at the Robin Hood in Pedmore Road, Brierley Hill.

It was love at first sight for the engineering worker but he had to work hard to persuade the then 17-year-old he was the man for her.

"I saw her and thought I've got to know her."

"At first she didn't want to know but I eventually was able to break the ice and we courted for three years before we got engaged," he said.

The couple, who live in Stoney Lane, Netherton tied the knot at Dudley Register Office on March 2 1953.

They went on to have two daughters Lyn and Diane and now have four grand-



Gerald and Betty on their wedding day in 1953

Combat zone and blasters coming to Merry Hill

TWO new attractions are to be launched for youngsters at the Merry Hill shopping centre before Easter.

The third phase of the shopping centre's Quest entertainment development will feature a combat zone for foam darts game Nerf sponge blasters and the UK's first Yu-Kids soft play area.

The Quest operational manager at Merry Hill Mark Knox said they expected the two new attractions to be open for Good Friday – March 29.

"Things are going terrifically and we have been extraordinarily busy," he added.

Mr Knox said that he would be taking on about a dozen new staff and once the new attractions were open he would be looking at doing more promotional activity.

He said a key aim was to increase the number of toddlers using facilities during the day.

Quest is owned by Paragon Entertainment and is its first owned and operated visitor attraction.

The attractions division opened its operation at Merry Hill in November offering the largest indoor ropes course in the UK, a

temporary outdoor ice rink, a Nerf blaster target range and shop and cafe.

The second phase opened on February 16 and added Quest for Adventure, an under-sevens soft play and ropes course area in the former Harry Ramsden's unit, as well as Quest for Golf a nine-hole minigolf course.

Nerf blasters are toys made by toy company Hasbro that fire foam ammunition and the covered combat zone is to be created on the area that was used for the ice rink which ran until the start of January.

More than 15,000 people visited Quest in its first month after it was officially opened to shoppers at the centre's Christmas lights turn on in November.

So far, 30 jobs have been created at the site, which will have cost £1.2m once completed.

Don't miss the Train to Teach Roadshow in Birmingham. On Saturday 23rd March at the Thinktank science museum.

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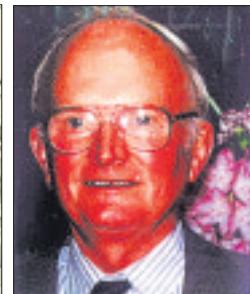
Wilde's Garage on the High Street in the 1940s



Staff working at the Quasi Arc company in Moxley in the 1950s



How the High Street in Moxley looked back in the 1950s



Local historian Bill Moorwood



A glimpse into the past, before the arrival of supermarkets, Arthur Neachelle outside his grocers shop in the 1930s

Moxley is remembered in historian Bill's book

IT HAD always been Bill Moorwood's dream to write a book about Moxley – the area he was brought up in and loved.

When the chairman of Moxley History Society died part way through writing his nostalgic book, his friends and family vowed they would see his work in print.

Members of the history society came together to continue his hard work on the book, called Moxley and Its People, compiling information and photographs with help from former Moxley folk living as far away as Australia and America.

Now, almost five years on, the book has been printed and is in great demand.

Fred Gleeson, manager of Moxley People's Centre, said: "Everyone is so proud and over the moon to have been able to complete Bill's book in his memory. We can't thank Bill's family enough for all their help and the people of Moxley for helping bring this book about."

by Catherine Dalton

The 76-page book includes 53 photographs of characters and scenes well known on the streets of Moxley in days gone by.

It features pictures such as Arthur Neachelle outside his grocer's shop in the 1930s; Wilde's Garage, in High Street, as it looked in the 1940s; images of the High Street in the 1950s; and workers from Quasi Arc in the 1940s.

Son

It also includes a foreword written by Mr Moorwood's son Andrew, who now lives in California. He wrote that his father, who was a radio mechanic in the RAF and later worked as an electrician for Joseph Sankey, wanted to "leave a record of places and events that he thought were important but would be lost unless somebody did something about it".

Mr Gleeson said writing a book about Moxley had been a dream of Mr Moorwood's since the 1980s. "Bill got in touch with me at a time when Moxley was getting a bit of bad press and a lot of buildings were being knocked down to make way for the Black Country Route.

"He said 'what are we going to do about it?' He came to see me and we set up Moxley History Society.

"He told me he'd had this idea of doing a book about Moxley back in the 1980s and some of the characters who lived there but it had sort of gone on the backburner.

"So the group, led by Bill, started to put the book together. Unfortunately, in 2008 Bill became ill and we promised we would finish the book for him."

Moxley History Society, led by new chairman Dave Butler-Hollington, worked to compile the book, which was the printed with the help of Barry Sutton, of Camrock-based Brownhills Asphalt and Tarmac.

Mr Moorwood's widow Edna helped to launch the book at an official ceremony. It costs £5 and can be bought at Moxley Peoples Centre, in Queen Street, or at the newsagents in Kendrick Road.



Phil Henderson, Barry Sutton, Kal Rehman, Fred Gleeson, Dave Butler-Hollington carry on Bill's work

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Charlotte's thanks



Charlotte Worton, aged 22, is saying thank you after raising more than £5,000 for charity

A MIDLANDS woman, who beat liver disease as a teenager, is thanking all who supported a charity ball she organised that has raised thousands for charity.

Charlotte Worton, aged 22, needed two liver transplants to beat the disease, after being diagnosed at the age of 12. She organised a charity ball to raise money for the Children's Liver Disease Foundation.

She said she was overcome with emotion at the level of support she received.

"I tend to bottle my emotions up and then have a big stress out but on that night I cried in front of people when I did my speech," she said. "I don't know where it came from but it was just seeing all the support, I think."

Now the trainee nurse is tallying up the final funds of the ball, held on March 2, which raised more than £5,000.

Miss Worton, of Ash Grove, Stourport vowed to organise the charity ball after a fundraising walk up Snowdon, Wales' highest mountain, about eight years ago following her first transplant.

She said: "After I did that, I thought: 'I can't do that again' and I wanted something everybody could get involved in."

Salt barn is aiming to save council thousands

DUDLEY Council is hoping to save up to £25,000 a year in wasted road salt thanks to a new storage barn that will be able to protect it from the elements.

The 9,400 sq ft barn will be able to store up to 7,500 tons of salt that was previously kept out in the open, exposed to the elements, with thousands of pounds worth being lost every year.

Semi-permanent building specialists De Boer and Stourport construction company Thomas Vale, the main contractor, have also provided Dudley council with a second, 10,764 sq ft, barn as a green waste handling facility.

The barn for the road-gritting salt also increases the amount of storage space and avoids the wind and rain erosion that can make the salt less effective during the snowy conditions such as in January's cold snap, when it proved vital to keeping the district's roads passable.

Dudley Councillor's Judy Foster, said: "I am delighted the new salt barn is now complete.

"It will help the council to save money in the future and ensure the salt is stored inside and away from the elements. With the addition

of the new green waste facility it means the council can also contribute towards delivering an increase in the amount of recoverable, recyclable and reusable waste across the borough."

Toby Bennett, De Boer's commercial sales manager, said: "The waste barn is a first for De Boer and demonstrates the versatility of the basic design of our All Weather Halls which have proved so popular with local authorities for salt storage."

As part of the waste barn's bespoke design, De Boer has created large doorways in the gable at each end of the structure, and off set from the centre, allowing vehicles to pass through the structure on one side, leaving the majority of the space available for material handling and sorting.

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NEWS

New watch scheme aims to cut crime at churches

A NEW anti-crime watch group aimed at tackling theft and vandalism at churches has been launched.

The scheme, set up by police, sees them and church leaders in Dudley sharing crime prevention advice to help make buildings less vulnerable.

They also work with the community to encourage residents and passers-by to remain vigilant. The scheme which has been trialled in Brierley Hill has been welcomed by church leaders. Many churches across the borough have been targeted by raiders and vandals who have left congregations with costly repair bills.

Among those who have signed up to the Church Watch scheme is St John the Evangelist Church, Brockmoor, Brierley Hill.

The church, off High Street, was attacked when vandals destroyed headstones and crosses in the 19th century churchyard.

More than £14,000 damage was caused during the late-night attack in September.

St John's vicar, the Rev Steve Martin, said the church had been forced to close the burial ground to protect remaining graves.

"It was mindless vandalism. St John's is a community church so an attack on the church-yard is an attack on the community."

"Church Watch is a very good idea. We are also setting up a youth project which the police are helping us with," he added. For more information email brierleyhill@westmidlands.pnn.police.uk

Guide Davy is well gnome



Ranger Davy Turner launches his new book 'The BodenGnomes'

HE is well gnome as a tour guide and Davy Turner, from Dudley is enjoying life playing one of the mythical creatures at Bodenham Arboretum.

The 59-year-old ranger regularly dresses in full gnome attire, with a pointed hat and beard, and gives talks to parents and children about the history of the BodenGnomes, who live in the park alongside ordinary woodland gnomes.

Now, Mr Turner, from Kingswinford, is on the verge of releasing his first children's book, which tells of how the creatures came to live in the arboretum.

He said: "I wrote a book many years ago about the movies of Robin Hood but this is my first attempt at writing a children's book. The release date has been set for April

Fool's day. Some people have even teased that I'm the Midlands Enid Blyton."

Mr Turner has been a part-time tour guide at the attraction on the outskirts of Kidderminster for three years, after he was approached by employers to take part in the annual gnome hunt.

His book is available to buy from the arboretum and a percentage of its sales will go to Children in Need appeal.

Mr Turner will be on hand to meet and greet fans of the book on the day from 10am. Details and a map of this year's gnome hunt, on June 1, can be found at the visitor centre or by visiting www.bodenham-arboretum.co.uk.

Councillor gets his gong

A TOWN councillor from Bewdley who helps save lives as a community first responder has received his MBE. Paul Gittins, aged 65, has been awarded the honour for his service to the community, including as a first responder with the ambulance service and 19 years as a town councillor.

Mr Gittins, thought it was a hoax when he first received the letter. He said: "It was like winning the lottery and it was only when I looked at the envelope and the Home Office stamps that it was suddenly real."

He said: "I wrote a book many years ago about the movies of Robin Hood but this is my first attempt at writing a children's book. The release date has been set for April

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Assurance on fears over falling police numbers

POLICE are reassuring the community across Worcestershire, who are worried about falling officer numbers in the wake of plans to close stations across the county, including Bewdley, Stourport and Hagley.

West Mercia Police held a public meeting last week to discuss the proposed changes, which are part of £20 million Government budget savings. Under the plans, there will be no changes to the main station in Kidderminster but Stourport Police Station is expected to be relocated to the Civic Centre in New Street.

Both Bewdley and Hagley stations will become community policing posts.

Speaking to councillors and community groups, Chief Constable David Shaw outlined the proposals, which he said have been

built on the foundation of local policing. He said: "There will be the same number of police officers as there were in 2003 and 2004."

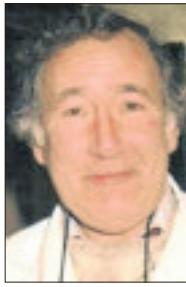
"People were relatively safe then and I think they will be again, but I do understand why many members of the public are worried and I hope this meeting and the decisions we make will give them some reassurance."

"I am very confident, however, that police response times will be just as good as now."

Under the plans, there will be 11 patrol bases across West Mercia and 82 Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

In communities which are considered to be a priority policing area, there will be extra resources.

Den-the-Fish dies at 80



Dennis Lane

RETIRIED greengrocer and fishmonger Dennis Lane – who used to do a roaring trade from his Dudley shop – has died aged 80.

"Den-the-Fish", ran Brewers Norton Stores in Stourbridge for around 40 years, taking it over from his wife Pauline's parents.

The Brewers family business, on the corner of Norton Road and Whittingham Road, had been trading for at least 150 years when it eventually closed in 1999. But Mr Lane then moved his fresh fish and seafood business to Kidderminster, supplying to the restaurant trade and getting up at 4.30am to buy his wares from Birmingham Wholesale Market.

Mr Lane and his wife still lived next to the old Brewers shop, now a hairdressers and beauty salon, and the couple celebrated their

61st wedding anniversary on February 9. Mr Lane, a former committee member at Stourbridge Golf Club and a keen follower of jazz music, was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2007 and died at the town's Mary Stevens Hospice on February 23.

Brewers shop was originally set up during the 19th century by Mrs Lane's grandfather Albert Brewer – at a time when the store and a farm were the only buildings in Norton Road. Mrs Lane's parents, Albert and Elsie, later ran Brewers as a general grocers and Post Office, which they kept going through the war years.

"My parents wanted to sell the business to go on a cruise so my husband said he would take it over and I agreed – provided he didn't want me to work in it," said Mrs Lane, aged 79. "But I ended up working there for 40 years."

MP backs dog chips

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James has backed plans for the compulsory microchipping of dogs.

It follows a visit to Blacks Vets in Pedmore Road, Lye where she spoke to staff about the new legislation. From April 6, all dog owners will be required to fit their dog with a free microchip.

The policy is aimed at tackling the problem of stray dogs and to make it easier for owners to be reunited with their pets. Ms James said, more than 100,000 dogs are abandoned or lost every year, costing taxpayers and welfare charities £57 million.

MP congratulates improved school



Margot James MP, with from left, chairman of IEB Julie Jasper, principal Deane Baker, headboy Josh Bath and headgirl Abigail Bills, both aged 15, at Thorns College

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James visited a secondary school to congratulate teachers and students on their success after emerging out of special measures.

The status of Thorns Community College in Stockwell Avenue, Brierley Hill, was changed by Ofsted inspectors last month after they published a glowing report on the school's improvement.

The school had been put in special measures following a critical inspection two years ago. In the wake of the school coming out of special measures, the MP visited the college to speak to teachers and students about the recent improvement.

She said: "I am pleased Thorns Community College has been taken out of special measures. I know that a concerted effort has been made by everyone at Thorns to raise standards at the college, and this news is a reflection of that work."

Progress

"So I'd like to pass on my congratulations to all the teachers, staff and pupils. I look forward to seeing Thorns continue its good progress in the coming months and years."

Principal Deane Baker said: "We were very pleased that Margot took time out of her very busy schedule to see for herself the huge improvement and progress Thorns has made in the last year and also to offer her support for the work in raising the aspirations of students and encouraging the gift and talents." The 1,250 pupil school was visited by Ofsted inspectors on December 4 and 5.

It highlighted vast improvements in the behaviour and attitudes of children, putting them down to strong leadership. Teaching was also found to have improved significantly, and students' achievement was getting better.

Reception to raise diseases awareness

REPRESENTATIVES from a Stourbridge charity have attended a reception at the Houses of Parliament to raise awareness of rare diseases.

Clare Hennessey and Julie Wootton, from Max Appeal, were invited to the event by the town's MP Margot James to discuss their work. It was hosted by Rare Disease UK which brings together patients and their families as well as health professionals.

Miss James, who is a patron of the rare disease charity POF Action, has also raised the issue of funding for research into rare conditions in Parliament.

Julie Wootton said: "It was an enjoyable event with a good range of speakers providing both a clinical perspective and personal stories, which helped to paint a complete picture of the complexity, and issues, associated with rare disorders." Miss James added: "It is important that we do all we can to raise awareness and understanding."

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Teaching centre is delighted at rating

AN education centre in Rowley Regis which teaches children with a range of problems has been given an outstanding rating by school inspectors.

Ofsted inspectors visited The Whiteheath Education Centre, Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis last month and released a report rating their service as Outstanding. The centre provides a home and hospital tuition service to children aged between five and 16 who suffer from physical and psychological problems.

Inspector Jeffrey Plumb, praised the centre for offering a wide range of academic subjects, and the teachers who help the pupils overcome a wide range of obstacles.

Headteacher Rowena Challone said: "I am lucky to have such a dedicated team, who work exceptionally hard."

Band to play region's pubs

AN up-and-coming Black Country band bringing their sound to a Rowley Regis pub. Indie Shenanigans, known for their 60s-style repertoire, will play at The Knight's Quest, High Street, Rowley Regis on March 30.

The gig starts at 7.30pm. Visit www.theknightquest.co.uk.

Decision pending on levelling fire-ravaged former school

A FIRE-ravaged and vandal-plagued former school in Rowley Regis may be demolished if council plans are given the go-ahead.

Sandwell Council is waiting for a decision from its planning committee on the demolition of the former St Michael's C of E High School site in Thorne Road, which has been regularly targeted by vandals and thieves since 2011 after the school moved to its new site in Currall Road.

An arson attack six weeks ago saw a large fire rip through the buildings, causing significant damage to the former school's structure and forcing police to close surrounding roads for up to six hours.

Four youths were arrested in connection with the fire soon after and subsequently bailed.

Rowley Regis Councillor Susan Eaves said: "The school has been closed for around two years and there was a fire there six-weeks ago which was quite bad.

"I think it would be a good thing if it was demolished because I know a lot of the residents have issues with it because of the spate of vandalism."

by Tom Mason

Residents who live near to the school have since been appealing for something to be done after they suspected the school was being stripped of its remaining metal by thieves.

One 26-year-old resident at the time of the fire, said: "We think they've been in there stealing metal and I was waiting for something like this to happen."

"The council needs to flatten this place now before someone gets hurt."

A report, created by David Willots from Sandwell Council's corporate property division, states that the building should be demolished using environmentally friendly methods and the debris will be recycled.

It also indicates that the land would be made available for redevelopment but at present no plans exist.

Pub to hold handmade crafts sale

HANDMADE jewellery, jam, and baby clothes will be on sale at a pub in Rowley Regis next week to raise money for charity. The Bell & Bear on Gorsty Hill Road will host a craft sale on March 24 from noon until 4pm. Some of the money raised will go towards CLIC Sargent. Contact 0121 561 2196.



June and David Wood celebrate their holiday prize draw win to Budapest

Couple are Hungary for a break

A lucky couple from Rowley Regis are looking forward to a Hungarian getaway after winning top prize in a Thomas Cook Olympics competition.

David and June Wood, aged 57 and 64 respectively, used the £500 in vouchers they received from the travel agents in Dudley High Street to pay for a romantic break in July to the historic city of Budapest.

They were entered into the prize draw after Mrs Wood bought Olympics tickets as a surprise for her husband early last year.

Manager Lynette Finch, said: "When I called Mrs Wood to tell her she had won she was over the moon and very surprised."

"All of the team are very pleased for them and hope they have a great time on their city break."

Contract sees firm taking on new staff

A NEW contract has allowed an engineering firm from Rowley Regis to expand and create jobs.

Cube Precision Engineering in Cakemore Road, Rowley Regis has increased its workforce to meet the need of its latest export contract with German business Westfalia, who manufacture parts for BMW.

The company that produces metal parts for the aerospace, defence and automotive industries, approached Lloyds TSB Commercial Banking for funding and were granted £200,000 to expand their operation, which included the hiring of three staff and two new apprentices.

The growth is designed to help the company manage larger projects, as they are already running their machines 24 hours-a-day, five-days-a-week to meet a growing demand.

Four roads to close for work

FOUR roads in Rowley Regis will be closed for eight days for repairs.

Moore Lane, Powke Lane, Garratts Lane and Harvert Road will be closed from March 20 to allow work to take place around the island in Powke Lane.

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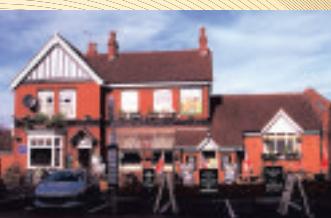
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NEWS

Rachael gets a helping hand to land dream job

A YOUNG Black Country woman has landed her dream job after completing an employability course at Stourbridge College's Black Country Skills Shop.

Rachael Platt has landed a job as a children's representative for holiday company Thomson and will soon be jetting off overseas this April to start her new role.

Working in partnership with Black Country Jobcentre Plus, the staff at Skills Shop helped five local people to prepare for their interviews with Thomson and its sister company First Choice.

They were looking to recruit holiday advisers and resort team leaders, sports coaches, children's representatives and entertainers to be based in short haul and medium haul destinations overseas.

Struggled

Rachael, aged 20, of Kingswinford, said: "As a former Stourbridge College student, having studied childcare level 3, I've always wanted to work with children but struggled to find full time work."

"I signed on at Stourbridge Jobcentre Plus and my advisor made me aware that Thomson were recruiting for representatives to work in their holiday resorts abroad.

"I attended their information day and I jumped at the chance to apply for one of the vacancies.

"I'm absolutely thrilled to have been successful following my interview and can't wait to start work."

Alison Mains, employer adviser at Stourbridge Jobcentre Plus, said: "Jobcentre Plus Districts have worked with Thomson and First Choice before to help the company fill vacancies and we were pleased that we managed to



Black Country Skills Shop job coach Samantha Dimmick, left, Thomson children's representative Rachael Platt and employer adviser Alison Mains

attract 12 unemployed local people to the information day. Rachael fulfilled all of the criteria in terms of qualifications and her determination to succeed."

Samantha Dimmick, job coach at Stourbridge College's Black Country Skills Shop, said: "We put together a course designed to help candidates prepare for the application and interview process.

"The course included customer

service and employability training as well as presenting information. We're delighted that Rachael has been successful by landing one of the jobs."

Ian Chapman, director of holiday experience for Thomson and First Choice said: "It's been great to get the support of the Job Centre Plus and the Skills Shop, who have helped to upskill unemployed candidates so that they are trained to the level required for our overseas roles."

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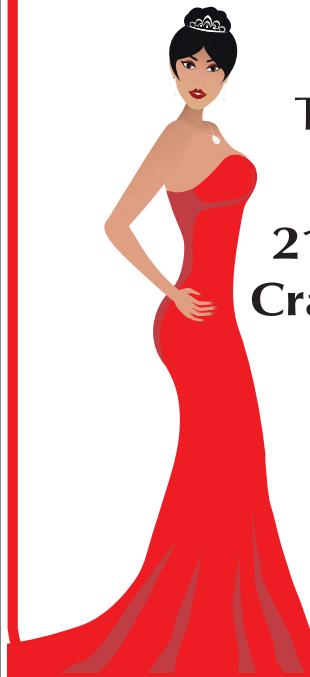
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NEWS

We are losing battle on stray horses, says RSPCA

THE RSPCA says it is facing a losing battle against horse owners who leave their animals on a West Midland nature reserve.

RSPCA inspector Jackie Hickman claims it is becoming increasingly difficult to ensure the care and safety of the animals because of the challenge of tracking down the owners.

About 40 horses are left tethered at Fens Pool Nature Reserve in Pensnett – but Insp Hickman says many are not microchipped or do not have passports, making it almost impossible to find out where they are from or who owns them.

In response, the RSPCA and Dudley Council are urging owners to get their horses microchipped and passported in a bid to assist the animals' welfare.

The call comes after a family of three admitted cruelty to four horses on the nature reserve at Dudley Magistrates' Court last week. Walter Hickman, aged 52, Amanda Hickman, 49, and their son Kevin, 23, of Wallows Road in Brierley Hill, pleaded guilty to more than 50 charges.

This week, RSPCA Insp Hickman said: "This was a case where we were able to track down the horse owners – but in all too many cases we are unable to do so."

"When concerned about a horse's welfare left at Fens Pool we leave a tag on the animal asking for the owners to call, but often you come back and the tag has gone and you have heard nothing. In extreme cases where the horse is judged to be suffering we use our powers to take the animal away."

Crackdown on town louts

POLICE are staging a crackdown on drunken disorder in Kidderminster town who say they are determined to help create a cafe culture and boost the night-time economy. North Worcestershire's new Police Commander Superintendent Kevin Purcell has announced he is leading an ongoing campaign to crack down on people who cause trouble after drinking too much.

Dan's the man for funds



Daniel John with senior sister Alison Ford and, from the left, Leukaemia Unit Appeal Fund trustee Ros Bratt-Wyton, fundraising co-ordinator Karen Phillips, specialist nurse Helen Knott and Daniel's son Carl

CHARITY champion Daniel John has raised thousands for two good causes as he battles leukaemia.

The 53-year-old of Hollis Street, Pensnett, says he was inspired to help after seeing the work done to treat cancer patients since he was diagnosed last May.

"I was initially told I would only have four to six months but I'm still going and I just wanted to help – and it has helped me by giving me something to look forward to," he said. Father-of-two Mr John has raised £4,942 from several fundraising events but with gift aid donations and other cheques he hopes the figure will be more than £6,000.

The money was donated to the Georgina Unit at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital and the Leukaemia Appeal Fund in Dudley.

Mr John was told recently by doctors that cancer had spread to his liver and lymph nodes.

But he is soon to undertake a drugs trial at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital.

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Police hunting for man in connection with attack



DETECTIVES have issued a photograph of a man suspected of breaking into a house and attacking a woman inside.

Police want to trace 20-year-old Alan Davies about the assault which left the woman, aged 19, with head and facial injuries.

The attack happened at an undisclosed property, in Lye, on February 9.

Officers say the person who broke in was known to the victim.

Det Sgt Craig Harris, of Dudley Police public protection unit, urged people to come forward and help trace Mr Davies.

He said: "We want to hear from anyone who knows where Alan is, as we need to speak to him as part of our investigation into this assault."

"The victim's injuries were fairly serious and we urge people to help us trace the suspect, where possible," added Det Sgt Harris.

Anyone who has information about the incident or the suspect is urged by police to phone their non-emergency line 101.

Alan Davies

Beth works on album



Beth Sherburn

A SHOPWORKER from Dudley, whose life was changed by a music producer, says she will release her second single in May.

Beth Sherburn, of Lower Gornal, saw her first single – a cover of Duran Duran's Ordinary World – reach number nine on the official UK charts.

Now the dance-pop singer, of Kingsley Road, is working on her second effort but has yet to decide on a title for the song.

The 21-year-old said: "I don't know what it will be called yet because I'm still getting my ideas together on the song."

"The past few months have been so busy with interviews and photo shoots and things so I'm just trying to devote as much time as I can to writing my songs."

Beth is also hoping to release her

first album in August or September. She said: "I've done about six or seven of the songs and an album usually has 12 or 13 so I'm getting there." Beth's songs are based on her own experience – whether it be her friends, relationships or a night out. She carries a dictaphone in her bag to record any surprise inspiration and then uses the piano to work on any song that might result.

Beth had always enjoyed singing and had grown up performing in school musicals and choirs but it wasn't until last December that she got her lucky break.

John McLaughlin, a producer who had worked with Westlife, was shopping at Debenhams in Merry Hill as perfume seller Beth sang a Christmas classic while working nearby. He immediately offered her a studio slot and days later he signed her to Purple Circle Records.

Councillor's concern at shop names

THE names of some newsagents in Dudley have been criticised by a community leader who claims they give out the wrong message.

Dudley councillor Ray Burston spoke of his concerns over names such as Fags and Mags, Fags and Booze and Bargain Booze.

He said: "This sends out the wrong message not just in terms of regeneration but education too."

Councillor Hilary Bills, chairman of the council's licensing and safety committee, agreed but said it was not in the council's remit to act upon such business names.

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NEWS

New golf academy will be tee off at college

STOURBRIDGE College's new golf academy will be tee off in September.

The venture is being set up with Hagley Golf and Country Club and will offer students the chance to gain a sports qualification alongside professional golf coaching.

Recruitment has already started with a group of prospective students meeting college lecturers and golf club staff at the Hagley Driving Range to find out more about the course.

As well as studying for a recognised qualification, students will benefit from technical golf coaching, golf specific fitness sessions and plenty of opportunities to test out their skills on the golf course.

Golf coaching and membership at Hagley Golf and Country Club will be included with the course.

David Faulkner, golf co-ordinator at Stourbridge College, said: "We know that the development of the course will not only have a positive impact on students but it will also go some way to developing the game as a whole as well as helping to promote a healthy lifestyle."

"After leaving school, young people are at a high risk of dropping out of sport and it's hoped courses like this will encourage more golfers to continue with the sport. Some students might not have played golf regularly but we hope the programme can help to break down traditional barriers to entering the sport." Visit the website at www.stourbridge.ac.uk or contact Mr Faulkner on 01384 399641 or via email at david.faulkner@stourbridge.ac.uk

Rabbit show aims to grow

ORGANISERS of the North Worcestershire Rabbit Show to be held at Kidderminster Town Hall are hoping to attract even more entries to the show on March 23 that includes categories such as Furryest bunny, Longest Ear and Best Family Pet. Anyone wanting to enter their pet for the show is asked to telephone Julian on 07927 021987.



Student Kathryn Brookes looks forward to the start of the golf academy

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NEWS

Punchbag that can't hit back helps to beat stress

Personal trainers are all the rage with celebrities but Marisha Cysewski finds nothing glamorous about her workout

ONCE I accepted the fact a personal training session was probably going to hurt, I actually enjoyed myself.

It was a real adrenaline rush taking my week's stress out on a giant wobbly punch bag that couldn't fight back.

Walking into Sparta Studio, torturous looking equipment faced me at every angle; I was anticipating a painful next 60 minutes. And it was, but at least I was being encouraged by my personal trainer Nick Neale.

The former kick box champion believes people often have the misconception that all personal trainers are sergeant major characters.

"I don't believe in shouting and bawling to bring out the best in my clients," he says. "I want everybody's workout to be fun."

Suitable

Nick became a personal trainer after gaining the English title in the British Championship for kick boxing and he has used this experience to put together a programme which promises quick results.

Nick said: "Each and every client achieves their goal, whether it is to run a marathon or lose five stone.

"I've never failed yet. Nobody trains like we do."

His personal sessions at Sparta in Brewood Road, Coven, costs £20 an hour, for two people.

His training is suitable for everybody. He says "My clients range from millionaires to people that work at



Marisha Cysewski throws herself into her 60 minutes of pain under the careful watch of her personal trainer Nick Neale



Poundland and their ages range from 17 to 65."

Once Nick even trained a man with his dog, which panted away on a treadmill while its owner weight trained.

He tailors each workout to an individual's ability and his sessions aim to use multiple body parts at the same time.

This creates an after burn, where a person's metabolic rate is increased for the next 15 to 24 hours, so you continue to burn calories.

Working with personal trainers is popular with celebrities, I soon realised there is nothing glamorous about doing squats while grasping for dear

life on a handle dangling from a ceiling. I puffed and panted my way through the variety of exercises and before I knew it the session had ended.

Nick has been a personal trainer for seven years, but his studio has only been open from September, his unique ways have become so popular that he is expanding the studio upstairs, to make room for a spin sessions, as well as yoga and boot camp classes.

Nick's enthusiasm is definitely contagious. It is the first time I've left an exercise class not using my last bit of energy to break free through the door.

If anything, I am excited about the prospect of going back.

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NEWS

Bishop calling to get rid of planned bedroom tax

DUDLEY'S bishop is calling on the Government to axe the so-called bedroom tax and benefit caps to rescue struggling mothers.

Around 60,000 people in the West Midlands - 3,842 of them in Dudley and 758 in Wyre Forest - are likely to lose between £500 and £1,000 a year under housing benefits reforms, says the National Housing Federation.

The bedroom tax is the name given to Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith's reform which will see the Government claw back payments from people in social rented or council housing if they have one or more spare rooms.

The Bishop of Dudley, the Rt Rev David Walker, speaking about the hardships faced by mums, said: "There are a number of things that could be done - one would be to get rid of the bedroom tax and another to get rid of the caps on benefits."

"People, including mothers, are having to come cap in hand for charity all the time."

"Five to six years ago food banks were unheard of - but it's a big operation now."

"Soon housing benefit, which used to be paid directly to the landlord, will be given to people in a lump sum with other benefits - so budgeting will be an added strain, having to make it last and putting enough aside for rent, the electricity bill and so on."

"It's a lot to ask of people already struggling."

Artwork for anniversary



From left, Osama Mohamed, Alfie Harris, both aged nine, and Laila Kaid, 10, at Halesowen CofE Primary School, with work marking the anniversary

ings and animations. Their work was on show in the "Make Your Mark" exhibition at St John's Church, Queensway, Halesowen town centre.

Some of the youngsters at Halesowen Church of England Primary have produced rag-rugging as well as papier mache and clay models.

Others have come straight into the 21st century by making digital draw-

ings and animations. Their work was on show in the "Make Your Mark" exhibition at St John's Church, Queensway, Halesowen town centre.

"We wanted them to produce different kinds of artwork covering techniques spanning all 175 years of the school," said headteacher Angela Hannaway. "It's the start of a year's worth of celebrations."

Tractor benchmark backed

AN MP says families should ensure they buy meat displaying the Red Tractor symbol to support British Farmers. Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier met representatives of the National Farmers' Union in Worcestershire where high on the list of topics for discussion was the ongoing horse meat scandal. Mr Garnier said: "The horse meat scandal highlights how important it is that we know what we are eating."

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Tea towels are the talk of meeting

KINGSWINFORD LADIES SOCIAL CIRCLE

FEBRUARY was the first meeting of 2013 and chairman Audrey Phipps gave her best wishes to the members and welcomed the speaker.

The secretary gave minutes of the November meeting.

Thank you letters have been received from The British Legion and The White House, Dudley, for the £80 donations the club has made to The Poppy Appeal and Cancer Support.

Edna Summers has sent a letter of thanks and is making a good recovery.

The treasurer's report shows a good bank balance at the end of January. The monies made by Val and Joan at the luncheons and sales table in the last two years will be used to purchase a microphone for the speakers. Ann read a thank you letter from the Fistula Hospital organisation.

The speaker was Fiona Lucas who gave a lively talk on Tea towels from around the world. She received her first one 28 years ago for her bottom drawer and now has a collection of 180. Each of the 14 colourful towels which she brought in represented a country she, or a friend, had visited. There was always an amusing or informative talk attached to each one.

Many of Fiona's travels were made with the Girl Guides so we also gained an insight into the workings and achievements of that organisation.

Fight to end polio

SELDGEY AND WOMBOURNE ROTARY

International, UNICEF, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, governments around the world and many others.

The money to go towards the eradication of polio President Tony Brown said: "Rotary Day is a fitting day to raise funds and focus attention on Rotary International's global campaign, End Polio Now."

"Since 1985, Rotarians around the globe have raised over US\$1.2 billion dollars and spent millions of volunteer hours vaccinating children in countries affected by this crippling disease."

The fight to end polio is led by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which includes Rotary

"This will take lots of vaccine, lots of volunteer hours and lots of money."

Talk proves food for thought

BLACKHEATH M TWG

THE February meeting was opened by our chairman Doreen Armstrong, who welcomed members and our speaker for the day Mrs Pat Green.

Doreen said she was pleased to see members again as our January meeting had to be cancelled due to bad weather.

Mrs Green's talk was Food Through The Ages. Our ladies were fasci-

WORDSLEY M TWG

THE February meeting was opened by chairman of the day Liz Hubbard, who welcomed visitors and a number of members attending the first meeting of the year.

The minutes of the previous group meeting, prepared by secretary Liz Moseley, were signed and Josie Burn, treasurer, gave a detailed review of the accounts and read out a letter of thanks from our Christmas entertainers who received a donation for the Macular Degeneration Society.

There will be a craft workshop, making an Easter bunny, at the Ruskin Centre, Amblecote, on March 23.

The Lunch Club's birthday lunch on April 22 at the Himley Best Western Hotel.

Garden and coffee mornings will resume in April.

The theatre group will be a matinee on March 23 of the musical High Society at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

nated when she told us about some of the strange menus served during the years, bearing in mind she was talking about England.

To mention a few, squirrel, snakes, small birds, moles and other wildlife seemed to be very popular. The most unbelievable was a meal for the Roman gentry during their occupa-

tion of our country – stuffed dormouse.

Please don't try it today, they are protected species.

She ended by telling us that we, in this country,

spend £30bn a year on take-away foods. A vote of thanks was given by Iris Harris.

The next meeting is the AGM on Wednesday March 27 at the Moose Hall, Beeches Road, Blackheath, at 10.30am.

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MUSIC

Sean and the lads ready to carry on the legend

Legendary band The Dubliners is no more but most of the remaining members were not ready to quit just yet. DANNY FARRAGHER spoke to Sean Cannon about carrying on

THE death of "Banjo" Barney McKenna, the last founder member of the legendary Irish folk Group The Dubliners, was not only felt throughout the folk and wider music fraternity but it ushered in the end of an era.

One of his fellow band members Sean Cannon, aged 73, remembers the colourful character he had worked with for more than 30 years but had known for much longer.

"I knew Barney from the 60s. I live in Coventry and when the Dubliners were over this way, mainly in the Town Hall Birmingham, a gang of us would go over, usually to the Shakespeare at the back of the Town Hall and the sessions would last until the daylight hours.

Anecdotes

"Barney was a great character. He would tell stories and anecdotes and he was a great player. I was going to say musician but am not sure what musician means, whether it's someone who can read music or compose pieces or someone who could play the banjo like Barney. He couldn't read music, he didn't have that kind of training, he was a natural as it were."

The death of Barney forced Sean and the band to do some serious thinking.

"The morning after the funeral John Sheahan asked us collectively and individually what we were going to do. We said we should honour the agreements we had made with the promoters at least until the end of the year and then see what happens and that's what we did."

While John decided to move away to pursue other avenues Sean and fellow



The newly-formed Dublin Legends from left Gerry O'Connor, Sean Cannon, Patsy Watchorn and Eamonn Campbell who are coming to the Midlands

former Dubliners Eamonn Campbell, Patsy Watchorn and "newer" addition Gerry O'Connor felt they weren't ready to put their feet up just yet.

"We thought we would carry on although The Dubliners is kind of a protected name so that's why we now go as the Dublin Legends."

Sean, the only Dubliner from Galway, is pretty confident the loyal army of Dubliners' fans will continue to support them as they embark on this new phase of their careers. "By all accounts ticket sales are going well and the rest of us will give it our best shot. And we will hopefully satisfy people's expectations in

that we will sing all the old hits where people can join in and have a drink and fun night."

"There was a certain set format with the Dubliners which was a tried and tested formula that worked very well, and why interfere with it, you know what you are getting."

"One thing the Dubliners were often asked though is what have we got against women, we have never had a woman in the band? I said well we couldn't get one with a beard and when we did find one she couldn't sing."

The Dublin Legends will be playing Birmingham Town Hall on March 15.

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What's On! Halesowen

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Male choir ready to sing in concert
THE Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir is performing their spring concert at Dudley Town Hall on Saturday March 23 at 7.30pm.

The performance is compered by Susie Riddell, who plays Tracy Horrobin in Radio 4's Archers and featuring Jean Martyn who was Britain's Got Talent finalist in 2011.

Other guests are Cotwall End Primary School Choir. Tickets are £10.

Unmythable tales of Greek stories

ALL the greatest Greek myths in just one hour will be on show at Unmythable, a performance with theatre, storytelling and song.

The journey through the greatest Greek myths will include Midas, the Odyssey and what really happened in that wooden horse.

The performance is at Stourbridge Town Hall on Friday March 15 at 1.30pm. Tickets are £7.

Fureys bringing a touch of Ireland

IRISH folk legends The Fureys & Davey Arthur will be appearing for a special St Patrick's weekend concert at Dudley Town Hall on Saturday March 16.

Renowned for their hit songs I will love you, When you were sweet 16 and The Green flags of France, the band will be on stage from 7.30pm. Tickets are £20.

ONE of the most popular musicals in West End and Broadway history is back on the road. The Memory will be just as sweet when Cats invade Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Tuesday, March 19, running until Saturday, March 30.

Only The Phantom of the Opera - which also has a touring version in the region, at Birmingham Hippodrome until May 4 - has enjoyed a longer run on Broadway.

With its incredible costumes, feline choreography and standout song Memory, as sung by tragic Grizabella, musical fans will welcome back a classic show not seen in the UK since 2008.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's blockbuster is based on TS Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, introducing an array of character cats.

Disco

The emphasis is on transglam when Jason Donovan reprises his West End role as Tick in disco-tastic Priscilla Queen of the Desert, the Aussie musical about the exploits of a group of drag queens. It's at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre from Monday, March 18, to Saturday, March 30.

For a drama alternative, Birmingham writer Robin French moves Ibsen's Hedda Gabler to Edgbaston for Heather Gardener at the Old Rep from tonight (Thursday) to March 28.



Oliver Savile as the Rum Tum Tugger in Cats

Welsh rockers return to the Civic



Get your gladrags and, if you wish, handbags because The Stereophonics are back

THE Stereophonics are roaring back with a strong new album, Graffiti On The Train, released last week, to be road tested on a tour including a sold out gig at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday night.

If that is half as good as their last blistering performance at the venue, it could be one of city's best gigs of the year.

Kelly Jones and co have toured the world over 17 years and achieve five chart-topping albums, including 2008's million-selling 'best of' A Decade In The Sun.

Their eighth album is their first since quitting a major label and setting up their own Stylus Records. The album is based on screenplay by singer and guitarist Kelly Jones about the aftermath of a tragic accident and combines their familiar melodic rock style, like new single Indian Summer, with new ideas.

For a band that have played at the Millennium Stadium and Hyde Park Live 8, the Civic will seem like an intimate gig.

Monk on the cold trail of dark deeds

Cadfael Grand Theatre Wolverhampton

THE crime-solving monk is back. Brother Cadfael's sleuthing skills have been brought to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.

The Virgin in the Ice is a tale of confusion, missing persons and intrigue set in England's darkest age.

The tale revolves around a cold English winter in the 12th century where violent gangs roam the countryside, two young nobles are lost and suspected dead when a body is found and Cadfael steps in to help find the killer.

This production was not the slickest thing with scenery wheeled on as actors began their lines and despite the stage hands cloaked in monks' outfits it seemed a little unorganised.

This combined with one of the most comical slow motion swordfights I have ever seen, made it a bit painful to watch at times.

However, the plot was good with plenty of twists and the cast were all excellent each giving a sterling performance, particularly Gareth Thomas (Cadfael) who bought the role, played so well by Derek Jacobi on TV, to life on stage.

For those that love the original program this will be a welcome return, but for those who are less familiar with the series may struggle with the slow plot line.

Tom Mason

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 16.03.13

CHOICE



Winston Churchill

Churchill and the Fascist Plot

Channel 4, 7pm
In May 1940, Britain was facing the prospect of a Nazi invasion. Winston Churchill didn't just have Hitler to worry as there was also a threat from Britain's own fascist sympathisers: the "fifth column" that could erode Britain's war effort from within. Days after Churchill became Prime Minister, MI5 descended on central London, keen to question members of The Right Club, an organisation and pro-Nazi society led by Archibald Ramsay MP. The aristocrat's organisation wanted to create an alliance with Hitler.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast, 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live, 11.30 Nigel Slater's Simple Cooking, (R) 12.00 BBC News, 12.30 Weather, 12.45 Football Focus, 1.00 Formula 1 - Australian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights, 2.05 Live Six Nations Rugby Union, 4.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union, 7.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather, 7.15 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Herring present a star-studded version of the unorthodox quiz general knowledge quiz, (R)

8.00 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draw presented by Mylene Klass.

8.50 Casualty. Jeff gets caught up in a marital dispute, Robyn breaches patient confidentiality and Linda tries to give a woman with a learning-disabled son some respite.

9.40 Trevor and Brown's Boys. Trevor has decided to work for a mission project in Africa, so Agnes resolves to throw him an unforgettable send-off, while Cathy's family counselling session descends into chaos. (R)

10.10 BBC News; Weather, 10.30 Match of the Day, Including Highlights of Everton v Manchester City, National Lottery Update, 11.50 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games, including Barnsley v Watford.

1.05 Weatherview, 1.10 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two, 7.30 Great British Menu, (R) 8.00 Great British Menu, (R) 8.30 Great British Menu, (R) 9.00 Great British Menu, (R) 9.30 Great British Menu, (R) 10.00 A History of Britain by Simon Schama, (R) 11.00 Meet the Ancestors, (R) 11.30 Map Man, (R) 12.00 Country Show Cook Off, (R) 12.30 Country Show Cook Off, (R) 1.30 Country Show Cook Off, (R) 1.30 Country Show Cook Off, (R) 2.00 Country Show Cook Off, (R) 2.30 Mastermind, (R) 3.00 University Challenge, (R) 3.30 Flog It! 4.30 Final Score, 5.30 Great Continental Railway Journeys, 6.00 Dad's Army, Mainwaring's position to raise money for the local Spitfire fund by having a bash at morris dancing. (R)

6.30 Top Gear Africa Special – Part Two. Part two of two. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May continue their quest to find the source of the Rift Valley in Africa using three old estate cars. Last in the series. (R)

7.30 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. France v Scotland (Kick-off 8.00pm). Gabby Logan presents coverage of the final match of this season's championship, held at Stade de France.

10.00 Film: Africa United, (2010) Premiere. Three Rwandan children walk 3,000 miles to South Africa to attend the 2010 World Cup. Comedy, with Eriya Ndayambaje.

11.20 Dancing on the Edge: Interviewing Louis. A romantic piece to Stephen Polakoff's drama starring Chiwetel Ejiofor and Eriya Ndayambaje. (R)

12.20 Film: Badlands, (1973) 1.50 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse, 6.25 The Hive, (R) 6.35 The Hive, (R) 6.45 Dino Dan, (R) 7.00 Peppa Pig, (R) 7.15 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom, (R) 7.20 Cannibal, (R) 7.25 Bookaboo, (R) 7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles, (R) 8.05 Ultimate Spider-Man, 8.30 Victorious Jessie, 9.25 ITV News, 9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA, 10.20 My Tastiest Treat, (R) 10.30 The Bellman, (R) 11.20 Dinner Date, (R) 12.20 ITV News; Weather, 12.30 Countryside, (R) 12.50 You've Been Framed! (R) 1.20 Film: Mutiny on the Busses, (1972) 3.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special, (R) 4.00 Midsomer Murders, (R) 6.00 Regional Programme; Weather,

6.15 ITV News; Weather, 6.30 New You've Been Framed! A fresh selection of comical clips.

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The duo go head to head in their latest challenge and play another undercover prank on an unsuspecting star.

8.20 The Cube. A sales assistant and a police officer try to complete a series of increasing difficult tasks in the hope of winning a jackpot of £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts.

9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host chats to Doctor Who himself, Matt Smith, and Ruth Jones, the star and co-writer of Gavin & Stacey. Welsh rockers Stereophonics provide the music.

10.20 ITV News; Weather, 10.35 Film: Total Recall, (1990) Sci-fi thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.

12.45 Jackpot247, 3.00 In Plain Sight, (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs, (R) 6.35 The Hoobs, (R) 7.00 Will & Grace, (R) 7.25 The Grid, 7.55 The Morning Line, (R) 8.00 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 9.25 Everybody Loves Raymond, (R) 9.55 Frasier, (R) 10.30 Frasier, (R) 10.55 The Simpsons, (R) 11.25 The Simpsons, (R) 11.55 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 12.20 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 12.45 Undercover Boss USA, (R) 1.45 War of the Raging 45 Come Dine with Me, (R) 1.45 Come Dine with Me, (R) 5.15 Come Dine with Me, (R) 5.50 Come Dine with Me, (R) 6.25 Come Dine with Me, (R) 6.45 Channel 4 News, 6.55 4Thought.tv, 7.00 Churchill and the Fascist Plot. The story of pro-Nazi society the Right Club, led by Archibald Ramsay, an MP in Winston Churchill's own party who planned to undermine Britain's war effort from within.

8.00 Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home. The Grand Designs host introduces a touch of luxury to his handmade cabin, finding a unique solution for a hot tub and fashioning a robe out of alpaca wool. Last in the series. (R)

9.00 Film: 127 Hours, (2010) A mountain climber is trapped by a boulder in a remote canyon and reluctantly takes desperate measures to survive. Danny Boyle's fact-based drama, with James Franco and Keira Knightley.

10.45 Big Fat Quiz of the 00s. Jimmy Carr tests six celebrities on their knowledge of the 2000s. (R) 12.20 Film: Once Upon a Time in America, (1984) 4.05 Hollyoaks.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.15 Power Rangers Samurai, (R) 10.50 Batman: The Brave and the Bold, (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory, (R) 11.25 Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge, (R) 12.25 Police Interceptors, (R) 1.25 CSI: NY, (R) 2.20 CSI: Miami, (R) 3.10 CSI: Miami, (R) 4.05 Film: Private Benjamin, (1980)

6.10 5 News; Weekend, 6.15 Film: Columbo: Uneasy Lies the Crown, (1990) A dentist plans to kill his lover and make it look like she killed him, but reckons without the attentions of the crumpled cop. Crime drama, with Peter Falk.

7.50 NCIS. The team tries to trace the history of a gun believed to have been used in a murder at a residence, and the fate of the child who found the weapon comes under suspicion. (R)

8.45 NCIS. CIA agent Trent Kort returns to track down a dangerous criminal, and Gibbs is forced to put his personal feelings aside to assist in the investigation. (R)

9.40 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A photograph of a murder scene is leaked online.

10.35 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. A murder is linked to a community hospital.

11.35 True Crimes: The First 72 Hours. A man is suspected of murdering his wife.

12.05 SuperCasino, 4.00 HouseBusters, (R) 4.20 Wine Country Secrets, (R) 5.05 Hana's Hiptele, (R) 5.15 The Milkshake! Show, (R) 5.40 Thomas & Friends, (R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car, (R)

Listings supplied by Press Association

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Merlin 7.45 Doctor Who 8.30 Film: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider (2001) 10.00 Grimmy's Comic Relief Late Nighter 11.25 Family Guy, (2005) 12.25 BBC Four
7.00 Britain on Film: Dedicated Followers of Fashion 7.30 Nursey - From Russia with Love 9.00 Spiral 4: State of Terror 11.10 Glen Campbell: The Rhinestone Cowboy 12.25 ITV2
7.45 Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) 7.55 Film: Hulk (2003) Comic-strip adventure, starring Eric Bana. 10.20 Celebrity Juice: Hunks Special 11.10 Film: Knocked Up (2007) 12.25 ITV3
3.35 Film: Summer Holiday (1963) 5.00 Film: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade 5.55 Lewis. The death of an Oxford don leads to the shady underworld of unlicensed boxing. 9.00 Foyle's War 11.00 Film: Air America (1990) 12.25 ITV4
3.35 Film: Where Eagles Dare (1969) 6.55 TT Legends 7.30 GT Academy 8.00 River Monsters: Deadliest Catfish 9.00 Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) 11.10 Film: Death Wish 2 (1981) 12.25 E4
3.35 Rules of Engagement 6.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Happy Endings 8.00 How I Met Your Mother 8.30 2 Broke Girls 9.00 Film: Transporter 2 (2005) 10.50 The Big Bang Theory 11.45 The Cleveland Show 12.25 Film 4
2.45 The Thirty-Nine Steps (1959) 4.45 Love Never Dies 6.00 2012 7.27 Dress (2008) 9.00 Good Morning, Vietnam (1987) Comedy drama, starring Robin Williams. 11.25 Julia's Eyes (2010) Premiere. Thriller, starring Belen Rueda.

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What's On!

Listings supplied by Press Association

SUNDAY'S TV 17.03.13**CHOICE****The Queen****Our Queen
ITV, 8pm**

In the past 12 months, the Queen has celebrated her Diamond Jubilee, learned she was going to become a great-grandmother again, and parachuted into the Olympics. (Well, okay, she didn't really do that last one, but she did get to meet James Bond.) But how did the monarch really feel about her landmark year? This two-hour documentary should provide us with some insights as it follows the monarch over the course of 2012. But it's not all about the pageantry – there's also an examination of how the Queen manages with day-to-day demands.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Daybreak. **12.20** Countryfile: A Royal Appointment. (R) **1.20** Call the Midwife. (R) **2.20** Formula 1 – Australian Grand Prix Highlights. **4.20** Comic Relief – The Best Bits. **5.20** Lifeline. **5.30** Songs of Praise. **6.05** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **6.30** **Countryfile.** The team heads to Lyme Bay on the Dorset and Devon coastline, where Julia Bradbury explores a rich geological history that has made it very popular with fossil hunters. **7.30** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the team travel to Chatham in Kent, where items include poison bottles and a glass bottle with spiky objects believed to have been used to ward off highwaymen. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations. **8.30** **The Lady Vanishes.** A socialite investigates the disappearance of a fellow train passenger whom everyone else on board denies ever having seen. Mystery, starring Tuppence Middleton. **10.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **10.25** **Match of the Day 2.** A review of the day's Premier League matches, which were Sunderland, Norwich City, Tottenham Hotspur v Fulham, Chelsea v West Ham United and Wigan Athletic v Newcastle United. **11.45** **Regional Programme.** **12.15** The Apprentice USA. **1.00** Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 **This Is BBC Two.** **6.45** Film: Primrose Path. (1940) **8.15** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **9.15** The A to Z of TV Gardening. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Little Paris Kitchen; Cooking with Rachel Khoo. **12.00** EastEnders. (R) **1.55** Coast. **2.15** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **3.00** Restoration Home. (R) **4.00** Figure Skating World Championships Highlights. **6.00** **Food & Drink.** A discussion on entertaining friends, with guest Rachel Khoo. Last in the series. (R) **6.30** **Flog It!** **7.00** **Dragons' Den.** A Welsh grandmother charms the Dragons as she tries to secure investment for her business idea. The usual rules of the Den are disregarded during a pitch for a haircare brand. (R) **8.00** **Best of Top Gear.** Highlights from the most recent series of the motoring magazine. **9.00** **Toughest Place to Be a Farmer.** A dairy farmer lives and works with tribesmen in Kenya. **10.00** **Mock the Week Looks Back at Education.** Highlights from the quiz show on the theme of education. **10.30** **It's Kevin.** New series. Comedy sketches and songs, starring Kevin Eldon. **11.00** **Comic Relief – The Best Bits.** Highlights from Friday's fundraising extravaganza. **12.00** Six Nations Rugby Union. **12.45** Film: Down in the Valley. (2003) **2.35** Six Nations Rugby Union. (R) **3.00** **Kevin Eason.** (R) **4.05** Comic Relief: Through Hell and High Water. (R) **5.05** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Dora the Explorer. (R) **7.30** Animalia. Bookaboo. **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **8.05** Rated A for Awesome. **8.15** Rated A for Awesome. **8.30** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.45** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **9.00** The Aquabats Super Show. **9.25** USA. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **9.45** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **11.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **12.10** ITV News; Weather. **12.15** Film: Carry On Don't Lose Your Head. (1966) **2.00** Doc Martin. (R) **3.00** Food Glorious Food. (R) **4.00** Agatha Christie's Marple. **6.00** **You've Been Framed!** Comical clips featuring an exploding beanbag. (R) **6.30** **Regional Programme;** Weather. **6.45** ITV News; Weather. **7.00** **Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?** Best of Friends Special. With Sebastian Cope, Steve Cram, Louis Smith, Paul Hall, Sally Lindsay and Steve White. **8.00** **Our Queen.** Feature-length documentary throughout 2012, providing a portrait of Elizabeth II during her Diamond Jubilee year. **10.00** **Perspectives: David Suchet – The Mystery of Agatha Christie.** New series. The Poitier star explores the life and work of the crime writer. **11.00** **ITV News.** Weather. **11.15** **Angela's Ashes.** Ruby Union. Extended highlights of the final in Worcester. **12.15** The Stora. **2.15** Monk. (R) **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. (R) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 **The Hoobs.** (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Will & Grace. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.45** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **5.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** Film: Picture Perfect. (1997) **4.25** Time Team. **5.30** Deal or No Deal. **6.25** Channel 4 News. **6.55** **4thought.tv.** As the UN warns that a global shift to a vegan diet is needed to save the world from hunger, members of the public consider whether it is morally wrong to eat meat every day. **7.00** **Come Dine with Me.** Former Miss Rugby Jade Hollis, film and TV extra Susan Gillis, recruitment boss Lee Bunting and academic Alan James compete for the £1,000 grand prize. (R) **7.30** Warwickshire. (R) **8.00** **The Secret Millions.** New series. Five celebrities work with charities developing innovative projects and covertly try to secure £2 million in lottery funds to help turn their idea into reality. **9.00** **Film: Salt.** (2010) **1.00** **Perspectives: David Suchet – The Mystery of Agatha Christie.** New series. The Poitier star explores the life and work of the crime writer. **11.00** **Film: Sunshine.** (2007) Sci-fi thriller, starring Cillian Murphy and Angelina Jolie. **1.00** **How to Build a Bionic Man.** (R) **1.55** Film: The Devil's Double. (2007) **4.15** **It's Everywhere.** (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.45** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie. (R) **6.30** The Fourt. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Oliver the Ostrich. (R) **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Animal Antics. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Norton. (R) **7.30** City of Thieves. (R) **7.50** Little Friends. (R) **8.00** The Adventures of Bottle Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.30** Mio Mao. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** The Wiggles. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.00** Inside Hollywood. **11.10** Once Upon a Time. (R) **11.15** Film: Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.05** Film: Scrooge-Dragons Unleashed. (2004) **2.50** Film: Sabrina the Teenage Witch. (1996) **4.40** Film: Surf's Up. (2007) **6.10** **5 News Weekend.** **6.15** Film: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls. (1995) Comedy sequel, starring Jim Carrey. **8.00** **Film: Legally Blonde.** (2001) Comedy, with Reese Witherspoon and Luke Wilson. **10.00** **Person of Interest.** Carter gains further insight into Reese's secret life. **10.55** **Film: The Long Kiss Goodnight.** (1996) Action thriller, starring Geena Davis. **1.10** SuperCasino. **4.00** **HouseBusters.** (2012) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Film: The Devil's Double. (2007) **5.15** **Film: Sunshine.** (2007) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Pop's Greatest Dance crazes **7.10** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be With You **7.30** Tomb Raider – The Crystal Throne. (2003) **8.00** The Flesh **8.10** The 11.00 Bluestone 42 **11.30** Family Guy **BBC Four** **7.00** The Many Faces of Les Dawson **8.00** Parks and Recreation **8.45** Minuscule: The Private Life of Insects **9.00** The Incredible Story of the Monarch Butterfly: Four Wings and a Prayer **10.00** Film: Apocalypto (2006) **ITV3** **3.15** Art & Deco's Saturday Night Takeaway. **4.25** Film: Richie Rich (1994) **6.25** Film: King Kong (2005) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** Big Rich Texas **11.50** Celebrity Juice: Hunks Special **ITV4** **3.50** Cornwall with Caroline Quentin **4.50** Murder, She Wrote **5.50** Wycliffe **6.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00** Lewis **10.00** Film: The Elephant Man (1980) **ITV5** **3.55** Film: All Quiet on the Western Front (1930) **7.00** Fabrice Mambala: Sports Life Stories **8.00** Angie Welsh Cup Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Tremors (1989) **10.55** Film: Species: The Awakening (2007) **E4** **4.25** Revenge **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** New Girl **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** Film: Transformers (2007) **10.50** RueTube **11.50** Shocking Show **Film4** **3.05** The Lady Vanishes (1938) **5.05** Aquamarine (2006) **7.10** Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007) **9.00** Ghost (1990) **11.25** Don't Look Now (1973)

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The Ultra Suction system is available for both new prescriptions and reline dentures

Transformations**Suction another solution**

A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered by the Denture Clinic. Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), who heads the teams at his North Street practice in Dudley and other clinics in Wolverhampton and Bearwood, says the invention has the potential to resolve issues with the poor stabilisation of dentures.

Prosthetics are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices which are built into the prescription. A clever diaphragms principle, triggered by the bite pressure on patients' gums, creates a 'sucking' vacuum between the soft-tissue mouth lining and the prosthetic.

Mr Burchell, whose clinics attract patients from as far as Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "The den-

ture revolution is evolving at a pace. In recent times we have seen what I can describe only as strident steps forward with implant-retained dentures coming into main-stream dentistry, clever technology which allows excellent fitting outcomes and now the Ultra Suction product.

"Implant dentistry is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference. 'Toolbox'

"The beauty of this technology is that it can offer for the right patient excellent denture retainer qualities without the complex clinical procedures required for implant work.

"We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this is another tool in our commitment to always try to deliver results which are greater than patient expectations."

Historically, lower dentures can

present stability problems as the jaw bone erodes with age. With traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and create painful friction problems on gums.

Mr Burchell adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower palates and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can result in improved speech and taste."

"The Ultra Suction kit increases the options in our clinical 'toolbox' and can provide affordable solutions to many patients who would not wish to pursue the stability resolve with implants.

"I remain passionate about the transformations good prosthetics can achieve."

"Typically, patients will be encouraged to contribute their views to treatment plans and generally be assigned more than three-and-a-half clinical hours in achieving the best possible outcome.

Betty is free from pain after having implants

A WOMAN who had suffered years of pain with two jaw conditions has finally found relief after undergoing dental implant surgery.

Betty had worn dentures for many years but developed neuralgia and her trigeminal nerve had become inflamed.

"I had terrible jaw pain and suffered pins and needles in the side of my head and tongue. It's a terrible condition. I'd had an MRI scan and had seen a specialist, but was still without relief," she says.

Clinical dental technician Mr Burchell had made dentures for Betty seven years ago and she returned to his clinic to inquire about a new prescription because the lower denture had lost its stability.

"I had put up with the floating effect of my lower denture and needed to address the problem. My lower gum had receded so much my denture was pressing down on a nerve and causing me pain," she adds.

"Steven explained the benefits of implant-retained dentures and told me it would allow my bite to be opened some more. Since having the implants on my lower denture, I have experienced no more pain."

Mr Burchell said all dentures have a shelf life and Betty's denture problem was due to shrinkage of her gums – a naturally occurring aging process.

"We hoped for an improved outcome on her condition, but never dreamed that the final clinical result could be so rewarding with Betty being free from pain," he adds.



Making the transformation and providing a cost-effective solution for upper and lower denture stability, the Ultra Suction prosthetics use a clever diaphragm system to help provide wearers with greater dental security

The Denture Clinic is at 82 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, WV1 4TF. Don't suffer any longer – call 01902 539300 for a free consultation We can also be found at the Fresh Dental practice, 4 St Mary's Road, Bearwood, Birmingham, B67 5DG. Call 01384 348594 to book an appointment

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HALESOWEN, NEWTON COURT

A recently converted 3/4 bedroom ground floor apartment finished to an extremely high standard and centrally located with commuter links to Halesowen and Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes, 2 bathrooms, one single bedroom, secondary glazing throughout. Allocated parking. Viewings recommended. EPC = C £800 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, NEWLAND GARDENS

Spacious well situated link-detached bungalow in cul de sac position. Large lounge, fitted kitchen opening into superbly proportioned hall with conservatory overlooking private rear garden. 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage & driveway, gas central heating, double glazed. Available immediately. Unfurnished or furnished to suit. EPC = D £675 PCM



DUDLEY, ST MATTHEWS ROAD

Refurbished to a high standard. This 3 bedroom mid-terrace property in Oldbury/Quinton area has lounge, fitted kitchen, blow air central heating, white bathroom suite with shower, separate WC, rear garden with parking. Available immediately. EPC = D £625 PCM



DUDLEY, STOURBRIDGE ROAD

Totally refurbished to a good standard. A terraced four bedroom property close to Dudley town centre featuring a lovely entrance hall with minton flooring, charming lounge and separate dining room. Feature fireplaces, new large kitchen with oven and separate dining room. Family bathroom with shower and a wonderful rear garden. Viewing recommended to appreciate this property. Available immediately. EPC = F £625 PCM



OLDBURY, MEHDI ROAD

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac. This modern unfurnished three storey townhouse comprises 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, large lounge, fitted kitchen, gas central heating, double glazing, downstairs WC, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space, small rear garden. EPC = C £595 PCM



MERRY HILL, MADISON AVENUE

Flexible accommodation. A spacious unfurnished modern townhouse, within walking distance of Merry Hill shopping centre, feature kitchen, downstairs WC, dining room/study, lounge, bathroom, 3 bedrooms, master ensuite shower room, allocated parking space. EPC = C £595 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, CODSALL ROAD

Spacious living. Great location for Haden Hill Leisure Centre, Old Hill train station and local shops, this good sized 3 bedroom semi-detached house features a light and airy lounge, large kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized rear garden, gas central heating, parking for 2 cars. Available March 13. EPC = C £550 PCM



HALESOWEN, HAGLEY STREET

Fantastic refurbishment over 2 floors. A fully refurbished modern duplex apartment above an electrical shop in the very centre of Halesowen, featuring a large open plan living area with modern fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Rent to include £40 fixed electric charge. EPC = C £550 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, MEADOW WALK

Quiet location and modern living. A fully redecorated semi detached house within a popular residential area featuring gas central heating, spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom, 3 bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite shower room, rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC = D £550 PCM



HALESOWEN, COCKSHEDS LANE

In a convenient location near to Blackheath town centre. This 3 bedroom unfurnished semi-detached property features living room, fitted kitchen, downstairs WC, bathroom with shower. Benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing. On road parking. Available early April. EPC = F £550 PCM



TIPTON, PEARTREE AVENUE

Cul-de-sac location. This deceptively large 3 bedroom terraced house is undergoing a re-decoration and re-carpeting. It features a spacious lounge, large modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized garden, driveway parking and in a quiet cul-de-sac location. EPC = C £550 PCM



BARTLEY GREEN, LUDFORD ROAD

Located in the woodgate area, ideally for the local primary school, this newly decorated 3 bedroom semi detached house features fitted kitchen, large lounge, house bathroom with shower, nice sized rear garden, on road parking. EPC = D £525 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, POWKE LANE

Great value close to Blackheath town centre. A large and spacious mid-terraced unfurnished house featuring 2 reception rooms, dining room, modern fitted kitchen with cooker, downstairs bathroom with WC, 3 bedrooms (2 with fitted wardrobes), upstairs WC, gas central heating, double glazing, on road parking. A bargain price. EPC = D £525 PCM



QUARRY BANK, EVER STREET

Complete refurbishment. Set in a quiet residential area, within minutes of Merry Hill, local shops, buses to Merry Hill and Cradley Heath. This mid terraced house features 2 double bedrooms, 1 reception room, large kitchen, house bathroom with shower, nice sized rear garden, on road parking. EPC = C £500 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, COPPIE ROAD

A two bedroom semi-detached house recently fully refurbished comprising front reception room, spacious rear lounge, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, front and rear gardens, on road parking. EPC = C £495 PCM



STOURBRIDGE, PROSPECT GARDENS

Desirable Oldswinford location. Close to Stourbridge Town Centre this newly redecorated, unfurnished mid terraced house comprises 2 bedrooms, fitted dining kitchen, pleasant lounge, gas central heating, double glazing, bathroom with shower, small rear garden, parking space to front. EPC = D £495 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, POWKE LANE

An unfurnished first floor flat, close to shops and local train station featuring electric storage heating, fitted kitchen, living room, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space, ample parking. EPC = E £475 PCM



DUDLEY, SOUTHGATE WAY

A stunning and spacious well presented unfurnished top floor apartment featuring 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, electric storage heating, double glazing, open plan living room with fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. Available immediately. EPC = B £450 PCM



NETHERTON, BAPTIST END ROAD

An unfurnished 1st floor flat comprises: living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, parking space to rear, communal garden. EPC = D £395 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, WINCHESTER CLOSE

A very well presented, unfurnished first floor apartment, close to M5 J2, comprises 2 bedrooms, fitted kitchen, lounge, double glazing, bathroom with shower, parking space and parking area for visitors, communal gardens. EPC rating = D £395 PCM



DUDLEY, BLACKACRE ROAD

Luxury contemporary living. serviced studios 1,4 and 5 all with shared bathroom facilities. Will include council tax, broadband, servicing, heating and hot water plus sky tv. EPC rating = D £395 PCM

Home of Property

Your top property guide for Dudley, Halesowen, Sedgley, Kidderminster and Stourbridge

Extended home priced £169,950

A SPACIOUS and extended detached family home in Newick Street, Netherton, is for sale based on offers around £169,950.

The property has a porch, hallway, 28ft through lounge/dining room, conservatory, converted garage, extended L-shaped kitchen, rear lobby, down stairs WC, three bedrooms and family bathroom.

On the ground floor the lounge/dining room has a feature chimney breast with art deco fire surround with marble effect inset and hearth and fitted gas fire, with patio windows to a conservatory which is 9ft 10in by 7ft 7in and with French doors to the garden.

The former garage has been converted into a useful multi-purpose room, while the kitchen - 15ft 3in by 13ft 1in has a range of wall and base units with work surfaces, stainless steel sink and drainer, space for range-style cooker, wine rack and glass display units.

There is a rear lobby with door to the WC with wash hand basin and toilet.

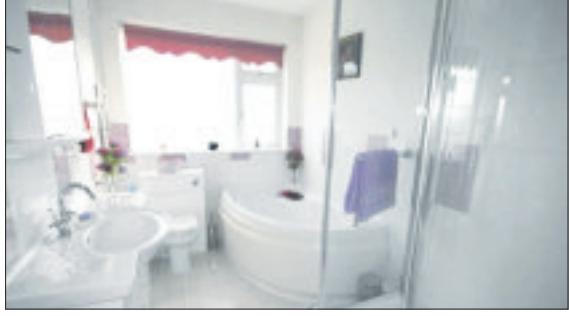
On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with walk-in shower, corner bath, vanity unit with basin and WC.

Outside to the front is a level block paved driveway for three cars while the rear garden has a brick built store, steps down to a circular paved patio area, shaped lawns and beds and second paved seating area under timber pergola, greenhouse and two sheds.

For more details call Billingham Taylor on 01384 234900.



This spacious three-bed property in Newick Street, Netherton, is available



The bathroom has a walk-in shower, corner bath, plus basin in vanity unit

An open day for stylish three-bedroom property



This property has an open day held between 10am and 4pm this Saturday. Call 01902 686868 for details

AN open viewing is being held at a house in Tipton Road, Woodsetton, Dudley this Saturday, between 10am and 4pm.

Offers around £130,000 are being invited for the tastefully decorated and stylish three bedroom mid-terraced property which is situated in a popular residential area close to a range of amenities including shops, schools and public transport services.

The deceptively spacious home benefits from central heating, uPVC double glazed windows (where specified), modernised dining kitchen and

bathroom, useful basement, low maintenance rear garden and off road parking to the rear.

The house is approached by steps past a small front garden, with ground floor accommodation including a sitting room - 13ft 6in by 12ft 3in - with a cast iron open fire with tiled surround and hearth, while the basement is 12ft 1in by 11ft 6in.

The lounge, 12ft 9in by 12ft 4in, has a pebble effect gas fire with modern feature fireplace and double doors to the dining kitchen measuring 10ft 1in by 10ft 9in and with

an inset one-and-a-half bowl sink, base units with roll edge work tops,

integrated oven with four ring electric hob and stainless steel cooker hood and wall cupboards.

There is also a laundry with roll edge work top, plumbing for automatic washing machine and with WC of with sink and toilet.

On the first floor are two bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite of panelled bath with shower and screen, pedestal wash hand basin and WC, and there is also a bedroom three/attic room.

Outside the rear garden has a paved area, decking area and gate to the rear parking area.

Call Skitts on 01902 686868.



Property Auction

39 ENDWOOD COURT RD
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OLDBURY

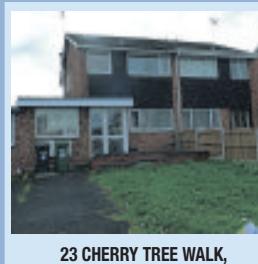
FORTHCOMING AUCTION

Tuesday 26th March 2013

To be held at... Aston Villa Football Club from 11.00am
54 Lots to include:

1 18 ESSER STREET, WALSALL, WS2 7AU	Freehold Residential Investment..... £64,000 - £65,000	SOHO CITY SHOPPING CENTRE, 263-265 SOHO ROAD,
2 45 HEDGESIDE ROAD, SHELTON, BIRMINGHAM, WV1 2TB	Freehold Vacant Residential £42,000 - £45,000	HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B27 9RT
3 46 CLOPTON ROAD, BIRMINGHAM, B26 3AR	Freehold Vacant Residential £40,000 - £50,000	31 ST SIR RICHARD'S DRIVE, BRIERLEY HILL, WEST MIDLANDS DY5 3JB
4 48 CLOPTON ROAD, BIRMINGHAM, B23 0RZ	Freehold Vacant Residential £47,000 - £50,000	22-25 ST SIR RICHARD'S DRIVE, BRIERLEY HILL, WEST MIDLANDS DY5 3JB
5 22 THOMPSON ROAD, OLDbury, WEST MIDLANDS B65 8DE	Freehold Vacant Residential £55,000 - £58,000	33-35 HIGH STREET, CLAWTHORPE, WALSALL, WS2 7EA
6 56 HIGH STREET, BROWNHILLS, WALSALL, WS2 8EL	Freehold Commercial Investment..... £10,000 - £12,000	34 LAND AT PORTMAY HILL, TINDALE, OLDbury (A3889 190) REF TWO
7 FLAT 5, 31 OXFORD ROAD, MOSELEY, BIRMINGHAM, B13 9EH	Leasehold Vacant Residential £56,000 - £72,000	35 GARAGE, THE SCHOOL DRIVE, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS DY2 8EH
8 24 COPICE STREET, TIPTON, WEST MIDLANDS DY4 0BE	Freehold Vacant Residential £64,000 - £65,000	36 JKL INDUSTRIAL SERVICES LTD, CANALSIDE CLOSE, GOSCODE,
9 24 HOLLOWAY ROAD, MOSELEY, BIRMINGHAM, B33 0PT	Freehold Residential Investment..... £72,000 - £77,000	WALSALL, WS2 1NZ
10 217-218 WOLVERHAMPTON STREET, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS DY1 1EF	Freehold Commercial Investment..... £120,000 - £128,000	37 RETAIL PREMISES 71 HERTFORD STREET, COVENTRY CV1 1LB
11 1 COLLIERS WAY, HANDBURSTON ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B20 2DT	Freehold Vacant Residential £59,000 - £70,000	Leasehold Commercial Investment..... £150,000 - £155,000
12 130A, 8 C LITCHFIELD STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1SY	Freehold Vacant Commercial £10,000 - £15,000	38 41 THE PUMPLE APT, 219 LADYWOOD MIDDLEWAY, BIRMINGHAM, B16 8ED
13 15 BRIDGE STREET SOUTH, SMETHWICK, WEST MIDLANDS B66 3DR	Freehold Vacant Residential £40,000 - £45,000	Leasehold Vacant Residential £120,000 - £125,000
14 27 BRAFORD STREET, WALSALL, WS1 1PN	Freehold Vacant Commercial £22,000 - £24,000	39 4 WATVILLE AVENUE, GREEN LANE, HANDBURSTON, BIRMINGHAM, B21 0DJ
15 FORMER METHODIST REFORM CHURCH, BETWEEN 159 AND 173 HEATH END ROAD, COTTONS, BIRMINGHAM, B25 8YP	Freehold Vacant Residential £90,000 - £98,000	Leasehold Residential Investment..... £65,000 - £68,000
16 14 - 16 STONEY LANE, VARDLEY, BIRMINGHAM, B25 8YP	Freehold Commercial Investment..... £200,000 - PLUS	40 218 CLEVELAND TOWER, HOLLOWAY ROAD, BIRMINGHAM, B21 1UF
17 41 ST MARYS CRESCENT, LADYWOOD, BIRMINGHAM, B1 2PY	Freehold Residential Investment..... £80,000 - PLUS	Leasehold Residential Investment..... £65,000 - £68,000
18 20 CLOTHIER ROAD, HANDBURSTON, BIRMINGHAM, B2 2JX	Freehold Vacant Residential £19,000 - £20,000	41 FLAT 1, 143-143B BRISTOL ROAD, NORTHFIELD, BIRMINGHAM, B24 8LE
19 20 CLOTHIER ROAD, HANDBURSTON, WV2 3HQ	Freehold Vacant Residential £80,000 - £85,000	42 CLOTHIER ROAD, NORTHFIELD, BIRMINGHAM, B24 8LE
20 137 CLOTHIER ROAD, WEST TINDALE, OLDBURY, WEST MIDLANDS B69 2HU	Freehold Residential Investment..... £16,000 - £17,000	43 LAND TO THE SOUTH OF BURY HILL PARK, REF SL-M NORTH 2AE
21 38 CITY ROAD, BIRMINGHAM, B17 0LZ	Freehold Vacant Residential £70,000 - £75,000	44 42 CHERRY TREE WALK, STOURPORT-ON-SEVERN,
22 83 WATLING STREET, GREENOCK, ATHERTON, WARWICKSHIRE CV9 2PH	Freehold Residential Investment..... £17,000 - £18,000	WORCESTERSHIRE DY13 0JT
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25 LAND 921 ALDROUSE ROAD, GREAT BARR, BIRMINGHAM, B44 8NY	Freehold Vacant Residential £125,000 - £135,000	Freehold Vacant Residential £90,000 - £97,000
26 20 BEADESERT ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM, B20 3TG	Freehold Vacant Residential £195,000 - £215,000	47 31, ELDER LANE, GRIFFYDON, COVILLE, LEICESTERSHIRE LE67 8ND
27 7 FALCON VIEW, HUDSONS DRIVE, COTTERIDGE, BIRMINGHAM, B30 3BE	Freehold Vacant Residential £95,000 - £98,000	48 400 BEAUFORD ROAD, SMETHWICK, WEST MIDLANDS B66 4EX
28 49 FORDHOUSE ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON WV10 3EE	Freehold Vacant Residential £55,000 - £60,000	49 36 HAWKESBURY ROAD, ERINGTON, BIRMINGHAM, B24 8LE
29 39 ENDWOOD COURT ROAD, HANDSWORTH WOOD, BIRMINGHAM, B20 2XK	Freehold Vacant Residential £141,000 - £152,000	50 53 ROTON PARK ROAD, EGGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM, B16 0SG

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* Coach house style residence
* Two bedrooms * Canalside location
* Lounge & fitted kitchen
* Well appointed bathroom
* gas boiler/radiator heating system
* Garage* EPC=C
Monthly rent of £550 + application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. 6 weeks Deposit**25A Cradley Road**
modern terraced house 2 bedrooms* UPVC double glazing windows* fitted kitchen with appliances* shower over bath* gas boiler/radiator heating system *EPC=C
Monthly rent of £535 + application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. 6 weeks Deposit**Old Hawne Lane**
* Semi detached house
* lovely family home
* three bedrooms
* large extensive rear garden
* no upward chain
* EPC = C
Offers in the region of £149,950**Furlong Lane**
* Semi detached bungalow
* re fitted kitchen & bathroom
* two bedrooms
* garage & off road parking
* pleasant rear garden
* no upward chain
* EPC = E
Offers in the region of £144,950**Quinton**
* EPC =C
* ground floor flat
* two bedrooms
* re-fitted kitchen
* communal gardens
* no upward chain
Offers in the region of £89,950**Daventry Grove**
* EPC =C
* ground floor flat
* two bedrooms
* re-fitted kitchen
* communal gardens
* no upward chain
Offers in the region of £79,950**82 Greenhill Road**
* Much improved terraced house
* Two bedrooms * Two living rooms
* Fitted kitchen with appliances
* Utility room * Double glazing to most windows* Dual boiler and radiators* EPC = C
Monthly rent of £515 + application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. 6 weeks Deposit**8 Yates Lane**
* modern 2 bedroom starter home * double glazed windows * Fitted kitchen with appliances * shower room * gas boiler/radiator heating system * UPVC double glazing * EPC = D
Monthly rent of £475 + application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. 6 weeks Deposit**44 Margaret Street**
* End terraced house
* 2 double bedrooms * Fitted kitchen
* Utility * Gas boiler/radiator heating system
* UPVC double glazing * EPC = D
Monthly rent of £395+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. 6 weeks Deposit**Flat 1 59 The Drive (off Hagley Rd)**
* Ground floor flat * one bedroom
* kitchen with appliances
* bathroom with shower over bath
* night storage heating * dg windows
* available soon! * EPC=D
Monthly rent of £395+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. 6 weeks Deposit**Flat 3 29 New Road**
* Second floor flat * One Bedroom
* Kitchen with some appliances
* Allocated parking
* Night storage heating
* EPC = E
Monthly rent of £395+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. 6 weeks Deposit**Former Salvation Army Building Park Street**
* Suitable for a range of uses subject to planning * Visible position nr town centre * Directly opp market carpark and Lidls * Two main halls, wcs, kitchen and ancillary rooms * Junction 2 (M5) 1.5 miles * Useable Floor Area: 262 sqm (2827 soft)
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RIDGACRE ROAD, QUINTON
NEW
Traditional semi-detached home with driveway
Lounge diner & fitted kitchen
3 bedrooms & bathroom
UPVC DG & GCH
Driveway to front & garden to rear
EPC rating E
£139,950 Ref: D1280



ST MICHAEL HOUSE, EDGBASTON
NEW
3rd floor apartment with 2 double bedrooms
17'11" lounge diner with balcony
9'9" kitchen with combination boiler fitted
Bathroom with white suite
Gas central heating & upvc DG
EPC rating C
£99,950 Ref: D1281



ROMSLEY ROAD, OLDBURY
NEW PRICE
Superb 3 bedroom semi-detached home
Refitted 16ft dining kitchen & 13ft lounge
Refitted bathroom with white suite
Driveway to front & workshop to rear
UPVC DG & gas central heating
EPC rating: D
£124,950 Ref: D1253



MANOR WAY, HALESOWEN
Impressive 4 bed detached home
Breakfast kitchen & 2 x rec rooms
Master bed with ensuite, sep. Bathroom
Landscaped gardens, swimming pool
Overlooking open countryside
Integral garage, EPC rating E
£429,950 Ref: D816



GRAFTON ROAD, OLDBURY
Detached home with no upward chain
18'11" lounge with separate dining room
Refitted kitchen with built in appliances
Refitted bathroom & 3 good size bedrooms
Block paved & driveway for several cars
UPVC DG & GCH, EPC rating D
£179,950 Ref: D1273



DEVON ROAD, BEARWOOD
3 bed home with driveway to front
Gardens to rear of property
26ft lounge diner and 15'9" fitted kitchen
UPVC DG & gas central heating
No upward chain
Gardens to rear, EPC rating: D
£169,950 Ref: D1260



PARKES STREET, SMETHWICK
Well presented 3 bed terraced home
UPVC double glazing & gas central heating
Lounge & open plan kitchen/dining room
Downstairs bathroom with white suite
2 double & one single bedroom on first floor
EPC rating: D
£97,500 Ref: D1262



LONG LANE, HALESOWEN
Top floor flat with parking
1 double bedroom & shower room
12'11" lounge diner & kitchen
Night storage heating
Low ground rent of £50 pa
Close to shops & bus routes
£69,950 Ref: D1242



GILCHRIST DRIVE, EDGBASTON
Unfurnished - 3 bed detached with garage
Breakfast kitchen, lounge & conservatory
3 bedrooms and luxury bathroom.
GCH, UPVC double glazing, alarm.
Parking, gardens to front and rear, EPC D
Available immediately - no dss - no pets
£995 Ref: DL131



BOURNE AVENUE, HALESOWEN
Unfurnished - 3 bed semi with large garden
Available end of March - No DSS & Pets
2 receptions rooms, refitted kitchen
3 bedrooms and bathroom on 1st floor
Gas central heating & UPVC DG
Off road parking & garden, EPC rating D
£650 Ref: DL119



RIDGACRE LANE, QUINTON
Immediately Available - 3 Bed Semi
Well presented in a modern style.
24'7" (max) lounge/dining room
Conservatory & extended kitchen
DWC, 2 beds having fitted wardrobes
Bathroom & a loft room, EPC Rating E
£650 Ref: DL132



COLLINS CLOSE, QUINTON
Unfurnished Two bed mid terrace
Lounge & kitchen diner & UPVC DG
Two double bedrooms and shower room
Gardens to front and rear
Available end of March
NO Pets, DSS or Smokers EPC rating E
£525 Ref: DL116

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- EPC: D • NO CHAIN



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- OFF ROAD PARKING



£99,950

- TWO BEDROOMS • END TERRACE
- LOUNGE • FITTED KITCHEN
- FRONT DRIVEWAY • GARAGE
- NO CHAIN



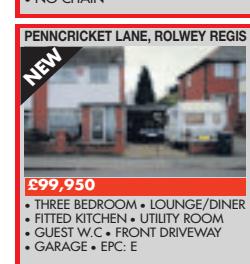
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- FITTED KITCHEN • GUEST W.C.
- REFURBISHED • MODERN



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- THREE BEDROOMS • LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN • REFURBISHED
- OFF ROAD PARKING



£99,950

- THREE BEDROOM • LOUNGE/DINER
- FITTED KITCHEN • UTILITY ROOM
- GUEST W.C. • FRONT DRIVEWAY
- GARAGE • EPC: E



£174,950

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- KITCHEN • GUEST W.C.
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EPIC D

£180,000

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Kenswick Drive, Halesowen



EPIC D

£170,000

A modern semi-detached house comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden, drive and garage. Halesowen

Hawne Lane, Halesowen



EPIC E

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A traditional semi-detached house briefly comprising three bedrooms, garden and off road parking. Halesowen

Albert Road, Halesowen



EPIC D

£145,000

A three bedroom semi-detached house benefitting conservatory and off road parking. The property also has a side garage. Halesowen

Clent Hill Drive, Rowley Regis



EPIC Awaiting

£125,000

A well presented semi-detached house with accommodation comprising lounge, conservatory, three bedrooms and rear garden. Halesowen

Harvest Road, Rowley Regis



EPIC D

Offers Over £90,000

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Motoring

Skoda reveals their new Octavia estate at Geneva

JUST weeks after the new Octavia hatchback was introduced to the range, Czech brand Skoda has revealed details of the estate version.

An increase of 90mm in length, 45mm in width and a vast 110mm in wheelbase over the previous generation model gives the Octavia Estate a big boost in terms of cabin space; 610

litres of boot space with the rear seats in place and 1,740 with the seats folded.

Alongside clever storage ideas already found in the hatchback, the Octavia Estate has a folding front passenger seat, a coat rack and a remote folding function for the rear seats.

Identical from the front, the Octavia Estate has its own design treatment at the rear but it is neatly integrated into

the overall shape to create a stylish load carrier. It also shares the engine range with the hatchback model, including the super-efficient GreenLine version which will deliver a remarkable 83.1mpg and CO2 emissions of 89 g/km.

Revealed to the public for the first time at the Geneva Motor Show this week, the Octavia Estate will reach UK showrooms later in the spring.



Skoda has added an estate version to the new Octavia range

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Spark 1.0+ and Aveo 1.2 LS shown feature metallic paint at an extra cost of £425. Offer available until March 31st 2013. *0% APR Representative. Minimum 20% deposit. Finance subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance by Santander Consumer (UK) plc, RHT13R. Offers available at participating Dealers only and not available in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all Dealer stock. Warranty expires at 5 years or 100,000 miles, whichever occurs first. 5* includes 100,000 miles. 5* is Santander's Customer Care Commitment of 2 year unlimited mileage on the customer's behalf. The manufacturer's warranty applies to the vehicle with a 60,000 mile limit. Years 4 and 5 are an insurance based warranty of a minimum of 100,000 miles. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 year warranty is available on retail registrations and at participating Dealers only. Prices correct at time of print.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Spark Range: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1) CO₂ emissions 119/g/km. Chevrolet Aveo Range: Urban 34.0 (8.3) - 67.2 (4.2), Extra Urban 55.3 (5.1) - 85.6 (3.3), Combined 44.8 (6.3) - 78.4 (3.6), CO₂ emissions 147 - 95g/km.

Opening new site to mark 60 years of motor trading

A FAMILY-run business thought the only way to celebrate its 60 years of trading would be to open another site in the West Midlands, Hagley Road Motor Company in Birmingham.

The new site's assistant manager is Stephen Grieveson who is the third generation of the family to join the business and he is supported by Bill Martin with his wealth of experience in car sales and customer care.

As a dynamic, modern business they recognise the importance of value for money, convenience and efficiency. Stephen and Bill are there to make buying your dream car a pleasant and hassle-free experience. They offer finance packages and accept part exchanges and will always go the extra mile to track down the perfect car for you.

Budgets

With access to a large range of quality used cars from within group stock to display on the new site at Hagley Road Motor Company, they have price ranges to suit all budgets. From a little run-about up to SUVs and 4x4s they have something for everyone. Taking all the stress and hassle out of buying a used car – all their vehicles come with AA Warranty for your peace of mind and are prepared to a high standard before delivery, this includes a service and MOT.

Stephen Grieveson said: "I am very excited with this new venture. We had a lot of work to do to get the site presentable for the opening last week and have got off to a flying start. We are immensely proud that we are and have always been a privately-owned family-run business, as we feel this enables us to put our customers first."

"We don't look for short-term gain, we strive to build strong relationships with our customers and offer a quality



The new business – Hagley Motor Company in Birmingham

service over a lifetime. Most of our vehicle supply is from port exchanges from our own local franchise dealerships across the West Midlands. They are all HPI checked for insurance write-offs, outstanding finance, congestion charges/fines, mileage etc. Making sure that with us there are never any hidden problems; what you're promised really is what you get."

The business is proud to have served motorists in the West Midlands for over half a century, and with a fantastic range of used vehicles and an outstanding aftersales service, there's no wonder the dealership is looking forward to a bright future.

The business was first founded by Mr Derrick Grieveson in Worcester in 1953 – and operated under the name of Worcester Carsales. The dealership moved in 1963 to a new site in Hylton Road, Worcester, and 1973 saw Mr

Grieveson's son and current managing director, Stuart Grieveson, join the family company. In the last 25 years the company has acquired many new car franchised dealerships in the West Midlands and is enthusiastic to open the Hagley site as a used car facility.

Over the last 60 years, there has been three generations of the Grieveson family enjoying working for the firm, and to date, three of Mr Grieveson's grandchildren work within the group.

Stuart Grieveson said: "We are a strong workforce with an excellent work ethic – and I'm delighted we are celebrating 60 years of service."

For more information about Hagley Road Motor Company, please visit the dealership on Hagley Road West, Smethwick, B67 5EY. Alternatively, call 0121 43 46 400 or go online to www.hagleyroadmotorco.co.uk



Hopton Garage MG is backing the lease scheme for the business sector, which starts from £210 a month

Launch of exciting new MG lease scheme for businesses

HOPTON garage is backing a new MG scheme aimed at the business sector, with an amazing value proposition with its new DTi-TECH diesel that offers a high-spec performance driving experience with the lowest overall running costs in the sector, from just £210 a month plus VAT.

The distinctive designs of the MG6 GT five-door fastback and Magnette four-door sports saloon stand out from the crowd in the car park and on paper. With BIK from just £59 a month, insurance groups of just 14E and 15E, high standard specification and low servicing and parts costs, they offer the lowest running costs in the sector.

Low BIK does not mean low standard specification with MG. S model

entry specification includes 17in sports alloy wheels, sports seats, power folding mirrors, dual climate control and an electronic hill hold function.

SE models add standard built-in satellite navigation with Trafficmaster, reversing sensors and multi-function steering wheel controls.

Move up to the range-topping MG6 GT TSE and it offers all the toys a business user could want with the addition of heated, electric front seats, leather upholstery and a reversing camera. With an electric glass sunroof and front parking sensors added as standard, the Magnette sports saloon has a German options list as standard!

The all-new 1.9 litre DTi-TECH diesel powertrain was designed specifically for the MG6. The latest stop-start, smart charging and variable-rate turbocharging technology is standard on all models to give MG performance with economy. With 350Nm of torque

the MG6 diesels have the highest pulling power per pound of any saloon and hatchback in the UK market.

The MG driving experience is completed with the MG6 chassis that was designed by engineers in Britain to make the most of British roads.

MG's scheme is operated in partnership with ALD Automotive which recently acquired Lombard Vehicle Contracts.

Prices start from as little as £210 a month on an MG6 GT DTi-TECH model is S-level trim up to £240 a month for the top-of-the-range MG6 Magnette DTi-TECH.

The prices are valid until the end of the second quarter of 2013 and are based on 35 monthly rental payments on a 30,000-mile contract. The one-off first payment on an S-trim MG6 GT DTi-TECH is £630 and £720 for the range-topping Magnette.

All prices are exclusive of VAT.

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07 reg LDV Maxus 3.5T 120 LWB White 35k miles	£4,495
05 reg Jaguar X-Type 2.1 S 4dr Black 33k miles	£4,650
07 reg Toyota Aygo + VVT-i 3dr Hatch 1.0 Silver 55k miles	£4,850
06 reg Toyota Yaris 1.3 T Spirit 3dr Blue 53k miles	£4,995
07 reg Toyota Auris 1.6 VVT-i TR 5dr Grey 62k miles	£4,995
56 reg Vauxhall Corsa Design 1.4 3dr. Black, upgrade alloys, 70k miles	£4,995
08 reg Peugeot 207 1.4 S 3dr Silver 32k miles	£5,495
08 reg Peugeot 308 1.4 S 5dr Grey 40k miles	£5,850
57 reg Vauxhall Tigra Exclusive 1.4 convertible. Black, 25k miles	£6,390
09 reg Toyota Yaris 1.3 VVT-i TR 5dr Grey 33k miles	£6,995
05 reg Honda CR-V i-CDTi Executive Estate Red 83k miles	£6,995
10 reg Hyundai i30 1.4 Classic 5dr Silver 21k miles	£6,995
59 reg Vauxhall Corsa Design 1.2 5dr. Silver, 27k miles	£6,995
09 reg Mini Cooper 3dr Hatch 1.6 Blue 28k miles	£7,350
10 reg Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Design 5dr Black 21k miles	£7,995
10 reg Fiat 500 1.2 Popular 3dr Grey 15k miles	£8,250
06 reg BMW 320D SE 4dr Saloon Silver 59k miles	£8,495
12 reg Fiat Doblo 1.3D SWB White only 75 miles	£8,995+VAT
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440.DD, FOUR BERTH. 2002.
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Cassette Toilet Shower.
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Two bedrooms.
Double Glazed.
Sleeps Six.
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Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with its
Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
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3. Ensure that you are given
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pedigree.

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Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any
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deceased, late of 3 Lowergate Court,
Sand Lane, West Midlands, B63 8PP
and Field House Rest Home off Western
Road, West Hagley, Worcestershire,
who died on 11/03/2012, are required to send
particulars of their claim to the
undersigned Solicitors on or before
two months and one day from the date of this
publication, after which date the Estate will
be distributed having regard only to claims
and interests which they have had notice.
GEORGE GREEN LLP
195 High Street Cradley Heath
West Midlands B64 5HW

7373872

**GWYNETH (otherwise
Gwen) Lewis (Deceased)**

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deceased, late of 1 Quarry
Lane, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63
4PA, who died on 17/02/2012, are required to send
particulars thereof to the undersigned Solicitors on
or before 24/03/2013, after which date the
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they have had notice.

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JANINE petite cute female who loves meals in/out, romantic strolls, WLTM interesting appreciative, independent man for it. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400803

ALISON 37 animal loving female who loves a quiet life. Seeking sesso older, respectful male 42-60yrs to enjoy meals out and cosy nights in. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402793

APRIL big bubbly 21yr old female who enjoys nights in/out, music, WLTM caring, loving older male, 30-45yrs. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402789

JACKIE bustly blonde, husband away seeks no strings fun. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 400453

HI I am Sara 21, a petite single mum, sporty, caring and looking for reliable, well groomed male 30-40yrs for adult 1-2-1. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402711

KATHY 38yrs, knows what she wants out of life, whilst similar genuine male to wine/dine enjoy travel, share ambitions and hopefully fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401873

MONICA 35, very attractive, gorgeous curly figure, WLTM nice male who wants to get to know a genuine black beauty to wine, dine, romance hopefully leading to more. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401873

JULIE cute blonde blue eyed female 31, looking for laidback dates and fun times with older confident male, 40-65yrs with GSOH. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401833

JO attractive 30's brunette who loves life, WLTM up for it male to enjoy nights in/out, weekends away, adult fun times and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401591

TRACY slim blue eyed blonde, likes nights out, travel, commitment phobic, looking for understanding professional male for mutually convenient meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401579

CAROL 37 attractive, slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring fun man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402623

MAUREEN seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323543

CLARE 37 attractive slim with long dark hair and big brown eyes, WLTM genuine male who is honest, sincere and won't waste my time or break my heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401919

TRACY 26, pretty petite blonde, possibly looking for LTR but definitely looking for fun times with outgoing guy. Any age/gends. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397027

PAULA 37 WLTM male companion for meals out, social drinking, weekends away, hopefully leading to a meaningful friendship with benefits! Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398503

MICHELLE 39yrd old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398349

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes night out, sees N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041

ATTRACTIVE 37 curvy Jamaican female 37 who loves to party, cook/bake and have fun, looking for no strings adult companionship only with white male, any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393423

JEANETTE 35, blonde, blue eyed attractive active nurse who really cares about people, WLTM someone genuine and honest to fall in love with. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402655

LISA 30 tall slim beauty looking for discreet dining partner to romance, pamper and appreciate me in return for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402654

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MARK 36, seeking fun, outgoing male for possible relationship. Tel: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401723

COVENTRY male, 42, 6ft 1ins, caring, romantic nature, seeks female, single, mums welcome, 25-55, any nationality/Foreign for nice times in and out. Genuine replies only. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396671

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MALE 40, 6ft 2ins, blond, seeks female for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401225

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LISA 30 tall slim beauty looking for discreet dining partner to romance, pamper and appreciate me in return for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402654

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ATTRACTION tall, Indian professional male, 30s, 5ft 6ins, seeks female for permanent relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399223

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A relaxed approach sees firsts outplayed

Finchfield 4 Old Halesonians 1
OLD HALES men's hockey firsts were outplayed.

With promotion already guaranteed, a relaxed and lethargic Hales side were dominated by Finchfield.

Hales fell behind early on to a penalty corner.

Despite dealing with Old Silhillians' high press the previous week, Hales struggled against a similar tactic employed by Finchfield.

The home side doubled their lead before half-time against a side hit by the yellow card and sin-binning of Paul Harrold.

Hales began the second half better and Tom Bulteel quickly grabbed a goal back.

But the game began to get stretched with both sides tiring and Finchfield took advantage of some uncharacteristically poor marking at the back to restore their two-goal cushion.

They grabbed a fourth goal before the final whistle.

Results: Worcester 6 Old Hales Ladies firsts 0, Old Hales ladies seconds 1, Shropshire 6, Hales thirds 1 Bridgnorth 6, Stratford Old Hales fourths 0, Worcester 2 Old Hales fifth 1, Old Hales Badgers 4 Kingswinford 2.

Town give Casuals real scare

Cradley Town 1

Wolverhampton Casuals 3
CRADLEY succumbed at home to title-chasing Wolverhampton Casuals, who moved to within three points of West Midlands Premier leaders Lyte Town.

But the home team gave them a scare as early as the fourth minute on Tuesday night, when Chris Blaydon's shot smacked off a post.

Minutes later Cradley were fortunate when Casuals' ace marksman Mark Bellington hit the post with his header.

However, he put them in front with a penalty in the 22nd minute after Sean Williams had been fouled.

Four minutes later, Casuals were two up when Bekir Halil headed in an Angelo Franco corner.

Blaydon reduced the arrears just before half-time and both sides had chances in the second half before Casuals wrapped up the points in the 83rd minute.

Substitute Tom Maydew's shot was blocked by Cradley keeper Matt Jones, but Mark Bailey was on hand to slot in the rebound.



Momentary joy for Swans' Roland Lamah before his strike was wrongly disallowed



Gareth McAuley wins a header in the run-up to Jonathan De Guzman's own goal

Europe dream lives as Lady Luck smiles

Albion 2 Swansea 1

WHERE there's life, there's hope. And Albion are not about to let their European dream die just yet.

Having talked the talk since hitting their initial 40-point Premier League target, the Baggies walked the walk against Swansea to remind their rivals they are in no mood to down tools, writes Steve Madelley.

While the Swans felt the full force of the Baggies' impressive statement, the message will have echoed around their other rivals in the top half of the Premier League.

On Saturday's evidence, Steve Clarke's men remain genuinely determined to end a remarkable campaign with even more glory. And Lady Luck appears to have thrown her weight behind the Baggies' challenge, too.

While Albion were decent value for their three points against the impressive Welsh outfit, they were honest enough to admit the victory owed plenty to good fortune.

Rallied

If Clarke and Co can match Saturday's standards consistently between now and May and catch a few more of the breaks they enjoyed against the Swans, it is impossible to rule them out completely when it comes to European qualification.

Having fallen behind against a visiting side they had never gone close to beating in the Premier League, Albion would have found it easy to throw in the towel with relegation concerns long since banished and the European spots a distance away.

Instead, they rallied to level before half-time and then forced the Swans back after the break to claim the win thanks to a couple of freak incidents. A Europa League spot remains an unlikely destination for Clarke and his players.

They will require a stunning end to the campaign and a little more good fortune from the FA Cup. But, with their customary



Gareth McAuley and team-mates enjoy Albion's winner against Swansea – and head coach Steve Clarke looks pretty happy too



end-of-season survival pressure absent this time, they are operating with a freedom and drive that suggests they will do all they can to keep up their own end of the bargain.

For a while, Saturday's game looked to be following a familiar course.

Swansea started fluently and the Baggies, who have twice been blown away at the Liberty Stadium and once at home by the Welsh outfit in the past two seasons, were left chasing shadows in the opening 20 minutes. The Swans' slick passing and clever movement put them well on top and brought groans from the home crowd.

And Michu should have given his team some reward for their impressive start when he raced clear but screwed a shot just wide. Frustratingly, it was an Albion old-boy who was the unlikely scorer of the opening goal.

Luke Moore, who had rarely threatened to deliver on his undoubted talent while

with the Baggies, had already created Michu's glorious opportunity when he popped up in the home box to flick a header over his shoulder and past Ben Foster from Jonathan De Guzman's left-wing corner.

The Swans were good value for their lead and must have been confident of another comfortable win. But that was when Clarke's side showed their supporters they have lost little of their competitive edge.

They were level within seven minutes as Romelu Lukaku continued his own impressive goalscoring form, sliding in at the near post to turn home an excellent first-time cross from Graham Dorrans.

And, having drawn level just before half-time, the Baggies flew from the blocks after the interval with Lukaku hammering a good chance of his own wide of the target, then

setting up James Morrison to fire straight at keeper Michel Vorm. Lukaku should have

added his second from the penalty spot after Wayne Routledge's shove on Morrison but the Belgian fired too close to Vorm. That was when luck took over to give the Baggies the results their efforts had merited.

First, Gareth McAuley's goalbound header from Chris Brunt's corner was nodded away from goal by Angel Rangel, only for a ricochet off De Guzman to take it in for the Baggies' second goal.

Then, with the clock ticking down, Swans substitute Roland Lamah had his joyous celebrations cut short by an offside flag after his close-range finish. Replays confirmed what Lamah knew – that the ball found its way to him off two Baggies players with no Swans team-mates close to the action.

It is the kind of help the Baggies might need to end their memorable campaign on a massive high. But more of Saturday's spirit will give them a fighting chance.

Halas U16 march on to county cup semi

Boys League

Halas Hawks U16 1 Sutton Old Boys 0
HALAS battled their way to the semi-finals of the prestigious Birmingham County Cup. A tight game of few chances was decided when Josh Marcs converted a Jake Waller cross.

■ A minute's silence was held before the game in memory of 16-year-old Christina Edkins, the victim of a fatal stabbing on her way to school. She knew a number of the Halas players.

Gornal U9 4

Halas Hawks U9 4
The U9s North, kicking down the slope, led Gornal 4-0 at half-time with goals from player of the match Jacob Phillips (2), Callum Deeming and Ben Peck. Gornal made equally good use of the gradient in the second period, levelling despite fine defending from Owen Jinks and good saves from Ryan Wood.

Halas Hawks U9 East 1

Bilbrook U9 East 2

Halas led 1-0 at the break, James Knight finishing off a flowing team move started by goalkeeper Michael Waugh. Bilbrook started the second half strongly and deserved their equaliser. Halas had their chances, energetic player of the match Aiden Mitton hitting a post, but Bilbrook popped up with a late winner.

West Hagley U9 South 2

Halas Hawks U9 West 1

Jack Blakeway put Halas ahead after a powering run from his own half, but although his side dominated they could not put away their chances and were made to pay when Hagley notched two late goals.

Halas Hawks U10 West 1

Forest Falcons U10 West 1

Halas were lucky to escape with a 1-1 draw against a much-improved Falcons side. Harvey Brookes scored for Halas.

Halas Hawks U14 2

West Hagley South 2

The under-14s picked up a hard-fought point in a scrappy game with goals from Josh Hearne and Connor Fisher.

Girls League

Halas Hawks U15 4

Bustleholme U15 2

Despite long periods of possession, Halas under-15s found the Bustleholme defence difficult to overcome. Bustleholme also failed to make the most of their chances. The prolific Amy Blakemore bagged a hat-trick as Halas eventually took control, Kayleigh Pommell also finding the net.



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Moving Dominique McKee to midfield paid dividends for the Yeltz Ladies

Rachel's hat-trick cements top spot

Halesowen Town Ladies 4
Gornal Ladies 1

A RACHEL LETFORD treble saw Halesowen cement their place at the top of Birmingham County Women's Division Two with victory over a spirited young Gornal side.

Halesowen were first to strike as Letford looped a shot over the keeper and it off the post.

Gornal levelled as the Yeltz defence were caught in possession.

A tactical switch saw striker Dominique McKee move back to centre midfield and from there Halesowen took over.

They regained the lead as Letford was brought down 25 yards out and Angie Morley scored her first goal with a well-taken free-kick.

Stranded

Before half-time, McKee put Letford through for the third goal, a low shot beating the stranded keeper.

Yeltz, strong in midfield through Dani Reade and Shannie Jennings in the second half, pushed on in search of more goals.

Sian Whitall's thunderous shot was deflected to safety, but another low shot by Letford brought her hat-trick.

Gornal never gave up, but were kept at bay by a strong defence.

■ Both teams observed two minutes' silence before the game in memory of Christina Edkins, the 16-year-old who was fatally stabbed on her way to Leasowes High School.

Halesowen manager Scott McKee, a former student at the school, said their thoughts were with Miss Edkins' friends and family.

Great escape completed with plenty of goals

OLD HALESIONIANS men's hockey seconds completed their great escape with two strong victories over the weekend.

Hales, a point clear of the West Midlands Premier relegation zone, knew that if they won both matches and Telford lost, they would be safe.

Old Halesonians 6 Stratford 2

On Saturday, a frantic offensive game saw Hales finish 6-2 up. The tone was set in the first 10 minutes, with the score already 2-2.

Hales re-organised defensively and the attack kept up their fine work. By half-time, the home side were 4-2 ahead. The second half was a much quieter affair, as Hales

Hockey

looked to hold onto their lead and the older Stratford side began tire.

Hales capitalised and scored two further goals before the final whistle.

Their scorers were Tom Durnford, Chris Hardy, Graham Knight, Mark Rigby and Ashley Greaves (2).

Old Halesonians 9 Shrewsbury 1

Sunday saw Hales entertain Shrewsbury in a game re-arranged after January snow.

After Telford's defeat to North Staffs on Saturday, Hales knew a victory would see them safe.

It was clear that the Shrews had travelled light, both in terms of number and quality. Hales hit their opponents hard and by half time had set up a five-goal lead.

With safety ensured, Hales took their foot off the pedal a touch in the second period, but still added four more goals.

Shrewsbury did grab a consolation at the death from a rare attack, as a stray shot rebounded off the hapless Mark Rigby into the Hales goal.

However, the final whistle soon came and Hales could celebrate safety with an emphatic 9-1 victory.

Charles Palmer scored a fine hat-trick,

with Tom Durnford, Chris Hardy and Graham Knight also grabbing two goals each. It has been a remarkable turnaround for Halesowen. Six weeks ago, they were on eight points with safety seeming impossible.

However, Mark Rigby's side have dug in and can be proud of their recent record, which has now seen them win four games on the bounce, and collect 13 points from a possible 18.

The side hope to extend their winning streak to five games as they head to promotion-chasing Warwick next weekend for their penultimate game of the season.

More hockey – Page 39

It's tricky going as Yeltz slip to defeat

**Northwich Victoria 3
Halesowen Town 0**

HALESOWEN were well beaten by an impressive Northwich side that adapted to the difficult pitch rather better than the visitors and ultimately ran out deserved winners.

The Yeltz found themselves behind on only eight minutes when Jack Duggan headed a free-kick over goal keeper Paul Evans and into the net.

Jean-Michel Guyeys tried to get the Yeltz moving forward and set up Ben Haseley, who saw his shot blocked – but that was Halesowen's best chance of the first half.

Possession

Things got worse for them on 61 minutes when recent signing Adam Meacham was caught in possession and Luke Holden capitalised when he beat Evans from 15 yards with a low shot to make it 2-0.

Halesowen had their best spell after this, with Haseley bringing a save out of Northwich goalkeeper Steve Dickenson after being set up by Guyeys.

Haseley then flashed a shot wide of the post after receiving a cutback from Aaron Griffiths.

But the game was up for Halesowen a minute from time. Joe Bunney was brought down by Brendan Kelly in the area; he got up to score the penalty and condemn the Yeltz to their second defeat in a week.

They had gone down 3-1 at home to Belper Town the previous Tuesday, Luke Corbett getting the goal.

■ Haseley has been nominated as Northern Evo-Stik fans' player of the season. For details, see www.hfc.com/home.html

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Karate kids celebrating their medals success



Members of Oldbury's SKKA karate club celebrate their medals, won at the recent inter-club championships

KARATE kids from Oldbury are celebrating after winning medals.

The SKKA club, who train at Hurst Road Community Centre and St Hilda's Church Hall, took part in the second SKKA junior inter-club championships at Hadley Stadium.

Competing with 10 other clubs, the Oldbury entrants took a dozen

medals – five gold, five silver and two bronze.

Instructor, Sensei Mark Harvey, said his 12 students had fought hard and demonstrated the true spirit of karate.

"I am very proud to say they are my students," added the third dan.

The Oldbury competitors were:

Phoebe Jones and Shivam Parekh, 07958 483369.

both aged eight; Owen Stanton, nine;

10-year-olds Kavy Hussain, Nathan Davis, Jack Purcell and Kieron Edwards; Megan and Abbey Dodd, both 11 and 14-year-olds Aaron Purcell, Seth Amoah and Joseph Rourke.

To contact the club, call Harvey on

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